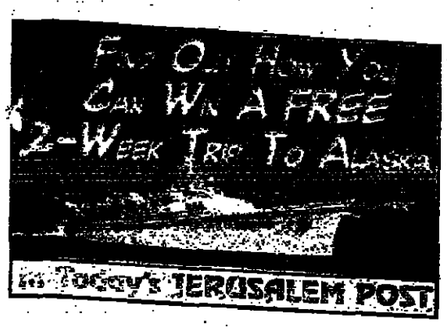
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Iraq threatens to attack US bases in Turkey and Gulf

By LEON BARKHO

BAGHDAD (AP) – Iraq will attack Incirlik, the US base in southeastern Turkey, if its planes continue to overfly northern Iraq, Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan warned yesterday.

It was the first time Iraq has threatened to attack Turkey in many years.

In an interview with Radio Monte Carlo, monitored in Baghdad, Ramadan said Iraq is going to attack the US and British bases in neighboring states, because their planes are patrolling the "no-fly" zones over northern and southern Iraq.

He said the warning applies to Incirlik and bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

"If the Turkish base continued attacking Iraq it will certainly be [targeted] like other bases," Ramadan said.

Ramadan made his remarks the same day that Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz held talks with Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit in Ankara. (See story, Page 7) Aziz came to Turkey to try to persuade the Turkish government to put a halt to the overflights from Incirlik.

But Ecevit made it clear that US planes would continue to maintain the no-fly zone from Incirlik. He told reporters he had told Aziz the mission is operating under strict Turkish control and that US jets are striking Iraqi defense sites only when attacked or targeted.

Ramadan reiterated the threat made Sunday, after a meeting of the leadership chaired by President Saddam Hussein, that Iraq would attack the US bases and British bases in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, whose planes patrol the no-fly zone over southern Iraq.

"I say if America and Britain do not retreat, they'll soon pay dearly in relation to the properties and elements they use to launch aggression on the people of Iraq," Ramadan said.

In Kuwait yesterday, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said the Iraqi leadership's statement showed Baghdad's "aggressive intention toward its neighbors."

Iraq's warning Sunday was a "direct and serious threat to Kuwait's security and sovereignty," the spokesman told the official Kuwait News Agency.

The Arab League yesterday dismissed Iraq's threats against Kuwait and Saudi Arabia as unacceptable.

"We do not accept threats," Secretary-General Esmat Abdel-Meguid told reporters after talks with the Kuwaiti leadership. "Problems are not solved by threats. They are solved through dialogue and negotiations."

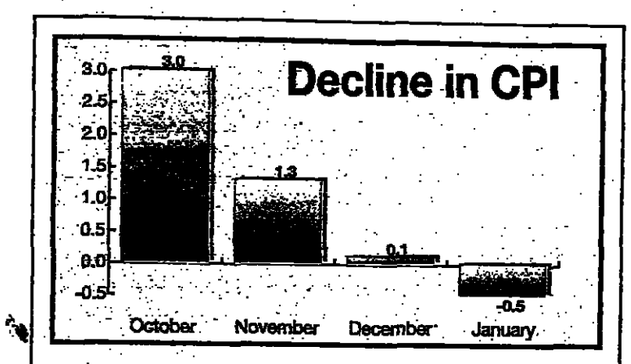
Abdel-Meguid is on a three-day visit to Kuwait to attend a league conference on legal information.

The Iraqi warning said Saudi Arabia and Kuwait should distance themselves from the US and Britain. It did not specify what type of action Baghdad would take against the bases.

The no-fly zones were set up after the 1991 Gulf War to prevent Iraqi aircraft from attacking rebels in the north and south of the country.

Iraq has never accepted the validity of the zones, which were created by the US, Britain, and France and are not authorized by a specific UN Security Council resolution. France later withdrew its participation in the enforcement of the zones.

Also yesterday, US warplanes attacked defense sites in northern Iraq, the Defense Department said in Washington.



CPI plunges 0.5% in January

By JESSICA STEINBERG

The consumer price index plunged a surprising 0.5 percent in January, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday. It is the lowest index since January 1986, when the CPI fell 1.3%.

In terms of points, the index has now been reconfigured, for the first time since 1993, based on last year's monthly average CPI, thereby being set at 104.7.

Decreases in housing prices and seasonal changes in clothing and shoe prices were the main factors pulling the January index downward, offset by increases in produce and health care prices.

Economists also noted that the negative index was a result of the stabilization of the dollar, coupled with the continuation of an economic slowdown.

Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel said he hoped the index indicated the economy is stabilizing: "The indexes that were [in the past], and that we'll see in the near future, will show if indeed we've returned to a path of stability," Frenkel told Channel 2.

"We're seeing a recovery from the previous inflation rate," Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu told Israel Radio.

The controlled inflationary environment of the last two months shows a return to the inflation rates of last August, commented economists.

"It looks like the Bank of Israel was able to control the rising inflation situation," said economist Gil Bufman, general manager at macroeconomic consulting firm Tishray Co., referring to the central bank's tight monetary policy following last October's shekel devaluation.

Interest rates were hiked 4% over the course of October and November, and inflation for 1998 was 8.6%.

"The whole exchange rate episode now looks like a one-time adjustment," said Bufman. "Things do look favorable."

The Manufacturers Association and Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce issued statements last night calling for a cut in interest rates.

Full report, Page 12

Ben-Ami, Vilna'i top Labor

Beilin, Burg, Baram round out first 5 in initial primary results

By LIAT COLLINS and DANNA HARMAN

Initial results from yesterday's Labor Party primaries gave MKs Shlomo Ben-Ami and newcomer former deputy chief of General Staff Matan Vilna'i, the first two slots, followed by Yossi Beilin.

The early results were based on 9,000 votes. Altogether, some 100,000 of the 163,000 Labor members eligible to vote went to the polls.

•Anger in Umm el-Fahm, Page 3
•Ben-Ami, Beilin and Barak on the road, Page 4
•The new general on the block, Page 5

Counting continued throughout the night, with the final results expected at about noon today.

The polling stations closed down shortly after the scheduled 8 p.m., then the 554 ballot boxes were slowly transported from around the country to the Tel Aviv Fair Grounds to be tallied.

Labor Party leader Ehud Barak, while stressing that the poll was a very preliminary sample, said the whole voting process had been a "celebration of democracy," and compared the party's primaries favorably to any other party's system.

"This is a real democracy, unlike others. I walked around the polling stations today and saw with my own eyes the meaning of democracy," Barak told those gathering in the fairgrounds late last night.

Barak denied he planned to reshuffle the list in order to make room for candidates from outside – such as David Levy or Shlomo Lahiani. At least, he added, not without fully consulting the party.

Barak also rejected out of hand a Likud comment that the list coming together is "as left wing as could be."

Voter turnout was reportedly high, with an estimated 60 percent of the 163,286 eligible voters exercising their right to chose the party's candidates. It was yet unclear, however, whether the somewhat complicated and experimental voting system would lead to a large number of invalid ballots.

By 10 p.m., less than a dozen ballot boxes had arrived at the fair grounds. Organizers said that after all the ballot boxes were in, it would take between 14 and 19 hours to count the votes. And, while initial results are expected by this morning, Barak will only officially present the fresh Labor Party lineup this evening.

Due to the long wait, the Labor hopefuls and their supporters have to endure, many candidates decided to stay away from the fair grounds last night, preferring instead to wait it out at their headquarters or homes.

The scene, therefore, looked very different than it did last week when the Likud – which canceled the primary system after the last elections, and was thus able to present the results of its central committee vote within an hour of closing the polls.

But while there may have been less candidates milling around, less wild supporters, and a less-ened sense of expectation – there was a lot of tension.

See BEN-AMI, Page 15



A supporter of Avraham Burg's stands outside a Labor Party polling station in Ramat Aviv yesterday.

(Yael Sumekh/Israel Sun)

The top 16

First results *
(together with reserved slots)

1. Ehud Barak (party leader)
2. Shimon Peres (reserved)
3. Shlomo Ben-Ami
4. Matan Vilnai
5. Yossi Beilin
6. Avraham Burg
7. Ra'anan Cohen (Secretary General)
8. Uzi Baram
9. Dalia Itzik
10. Binyamin Ben-Eliezer (res. for woman)
11. Haim Ramon
12. Ophir Pines
13. Elie Goldschmidt
14. Yuli Tamir (res. for woman)
15. Ephraim Sneh
16. Avraham Shohat

* based on first 9,000 votes counted

Foreign Ministry trying to calm Dutch tension

By ELISE FRIEDMANN and itim

Attempting to defuse the escalating tension between Israel and Holland over the 1992 El Al crash, Foreign Ministry Director-General Eytan Bentsur met yesterday with Dutch Ambassador Como van Hellenberg Hubar.

A parliamentary investigation taking place in Holland surrounding the crash, which killed 43, has created a hostile environment in the Dutch media toward El Al, and the Foreign Ministry fears that it might cloud diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Tomorrow, Israel cargo manager Israel Chevrin will testify as the hearings resume. The hearings are to include a total of 21 witnesses.

Customs at Schiphol Airport are performing heavy checks on El Al flights, while the Dutch media are reporting the slightest incident involving El Al planes. Avner Yarkoni, head of the Civil Aviation Authority, flew to Holland Sunday to meet with the inquiry committee and investigate problems at the airport.

The committee is trying to get to the bottom of the many questions surrounding the crash, including the way Dutch officials handled the aftermath.

On October 4, 1992, a cargo plane struck two densely populated apartment blocs on the outskirts of Amsterdam, killing at least 43 people. Because of the tremendous heat generated by the ensuing fire, plus the fact that the buildings housed many illegal immigrants, the exact number of victims remains unknown.

More than 800 inhabitants of the area have developed a wide range of health problems, which they blame on dangerous substances in the still-unrevealed cargo. Components of sarin, the nerve gas, have been mentioned. They claim these health problems have been consistently ignored by the authorities.

Dutch diplomats in Israel have been told to explain the excitement surrounding the inquiry. "We must be able to make it clear to Israel that this is not 'business as usual,'" Prime Minister Wim Kok said last Friday.

The inquiry has generated more questions than answers. During the first week, inhabitants of the disaster area and rescuers told how their questions and complaints were ignored by Dutch authorities.

See DUTCH, Page 15

More ordeals ahead for Labor's survivors

ANALYSIS

BY SARAH HONIG

The true travails of the Labor runners on their way to the next Knesset will only begin today, after the results of yesterday's primaries are in. Only then will the survivors of the gruelling ordeal embark on yet another fateful fight for political life.

Only after it becomes apparent who moved forward, who slipped back, or who was pushed out altogether, will party chairman Ehud Barak unveil the mysteries of One Israel. Besides replacing the Labor name, this new electoral bloc provides Barak with the ideal mechanism for amending the list produced by the primaries. He made no bones about never really liking the primaries, but was too slow in his moves to scrap them.

Instead, tomorrow, Barak can begin inserting new names into coveted slots on the list via the pretext of forming alignments under the One Israel umbrella with other political factions, even though these are patently fictional or at most marginal.

As a result, those who made it through the very crowded primaries race may now find themselves pushed down not only to less prestigious placings, but to unrealistic ones. Not many will agree to fall on their swords for any new name which Barak deems essential for his own electoral prospects.

MKs may not bellyache too dramatically if asked to make room for David Levy, because he is a big name, regardless of the fact that his vote-getting potential is negligible these days (which is why he is available for cooption into One Israel). But the reaction may be very different if an attempt is made to bring in any of his Gesher cronies at the expense of those who endured Labor's primaries.

Likewise, few Laborites would be willing to sacrifice hard-won slots for the likes of Shlomo Lahiani, whose sole claim to fame is his narrow loss of the Bat Yam mayoralty last November.

Barak has arbitrarily decided that Lahiani, who won some 25,000 votes in his failed bid, is what he needs to get himself elected prime minister. But, even Lahiani can't guarantee the transfer of all, or even most, of those votes to Barak. Yet the word in Labor is that Barak intends to parachute Lahiani – without competition – into the 11th slot. This means that the Bat Yam contractor would artificially precede some of Labor's most senior – and most deserving – figures. The "top 10" already includes reserved slots for Shimon Peres and party secretary-general Ra'anan Cohen, a woman (in ninth slot) and perhaps Levy as No.3.

Thus only five slots are left for Labor males who are competing in this lucrative grouping.

Obviously many familiar faces will be squeezed out. But this is where things get really heartless. The top 10's overflow will have to recede yet further back for Lahiani. Males can also forget about the 14th and 20th slots which are reserved for women. The 17th slot goes to an Arab, the 18th to a candidate from the central region and No. 19 to an immigrant. Those competing in the general nationwide race are then left with no more than four slots in the "second 10" – unless Barak parcels some of those out as well.

The "third 10" is composed entirely of reserved slots and so most runners in the national race can find no room there, except for the women, for whom slots 26 and 30 are reserved. The next fully open, unassigned slots are the 37th and 38th and these are seen as unsafe, unless Labor wins an unexpected landslide.

See ANALYSIS, Page 15

GSS checking threat on Ehud Barak's life

The General Security Service is investigating a threat on the life of Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak, his spokesman David Ziso said last night.

"We're going to murder you just like we murdered [Yitzhak] Rabin," a man who showed up at a Labor Party demonstration in Tel Aviv Friday shouted at Barak.

Cameramen the party had hired to tape footage of Barak supporters caught the man exiting from his car and making the threat. The tape has been handed over to the GSS, Ziso said.

Barak's campaign also has been plagued by a series of break-ins, both here and abroad.

Barak said yesterday that while it is strange that a number of his campaign workers' homes, cars, and offices have been broken into, he isn't worried by them and doesn't feel threatened.

Heidi J. Gleit

NEWS
in brief

Air Force jets strike Hizbullah targets

For the second day in a row, Israeli warplanes struck at suspected Hizbullah targets north of the security zone yesterday afternoon. There were no reports of casualties or injuries.

The army said that its jets attacked targets in Jabel Dir Harma in the western sector of south Lebanon. All jets returned safely to base, the IDF said.

Earlier, Hizbullah mortar squads fired at IDF positions in the security zone in what has become a daily event. IDF artillery returned fire. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

Lebanese president praises Hizbullah

The government yesterday denounced Lebanese President Salim Hoss, who was quoted in Lebanon's *Daily Star* daily as endorsing Hizbullah.

"It is regrettable that the Lebanese government is openly supporting a terrorist movement," said Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's communications director David Bar-Illan.

According to the paper, Hoss praised Hizbullah fighters killed in combat against Israel, saying armed resistance "is the only language the cowardly enemy understands, the enemy that shields itself with dominant international forces to practice crimes against our country, people and land." *Danna Harman*

Hawatmeh defends handshake with Weizman

Nayef Hawatmeh, leader of the Syrian-based Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, yesterday defended his handshake with President Ezer Weizman at the funeral of Jordan's King Hussein last week.

As a result of the handshake, a coalition of 10 Palestinian radical groups decided Sunday to expel Hawatmeh and the DFLP.

Hawatmeh said that Weizman had backed the Palestinians' demand for "self-determination and an independent Palestinian state," and added that "he who wants peace should meet his enemies." *AP*

Sharon accompanies wife for NY tests

Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon left last night for the United States on a private trip. He is accompanying his wife Lily, who will be undergoing a series of medical tests in New York.

"Lily Sharon went through a number of tests recently at the Sheba Hospital, and, in consultation with her doctors there decided to travel to the United States for further tests," a spokesman for Sharon said in a statement.

Speaking to Army Radio, Lily Sharon said she was sure "the specialists will do all they can and I will soon return to Israel." The Foreign Minister does not intend to hold any official meetings in the US. *Danna Harman*

Israel may join EU R&D program

The European Parliament this week recommended allowing Israel to participate in the prestigious European Union research and development program, Trade and Industry Ministry Natan Sharansky said yesterday.

Israel has been fighting for membership in the program – which will allot some 14.96 billion euros ($16.82 billion) over the next four years for R&D projects. Israel still faces political opposition in the Council of Ministers, which has final say on membership in the program. The council, which may consider Israel's admission as early as next week, has indicated it may be conditional upon implementation of the Wye Accord. *Danna Harman*

Family of Jerusalem stabber claim alibi

The family of Mahmad Sha'alan, the 23-year-old who confessed to stabbing Naela Hamdan Kara'in in Jerusalem last week because he thought she was a Jew, said yesterday that he is mentally disturbed and was in fact at home when the murder took place.

Jerusalem police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby rejected the family's allegations, saying "He certainly murdered her. I don't want to go into the specific details, but the killer left a lot of signs and Mahmad told us things that only the killer could know."

Jerusalem's Magistrate Court remanded Sha'alan on Friday for 15 days. *Amy Klein*

Youths fined for swearing at Arabs

A Kiryat Shmona court fined two youth 500 NIS each for using the term "stinking Arabs".

The two youths reportedly used the term against a group of Arabs with whom they got into a confrontation while shopping at the local mall. The Arabs complained about the verbal abuse to the police, and also accused one of the youths of attacked them with a bottle. Judge Ben Pailes fined the youths as part of a plea bargain. *Itim*

Interior Ministry reports on '98 deportations

There were 5,453 deportation orders issued in Israel in 1998, 4,859 of which were carried out, according to a report released by the Interior Ministry yesterday.

The majority of deportations were for illegal immigration status, while a significant minority were for prostitution and other crimes. Of the deportees, more than 25 percent were repatriated to Romania, and approximately 20 percent were repatriated to countries in Asia. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

6 Israelis hurt in Thailand accident

Two people were killed and 37, including six Israelis, injured when a tour bus collided with a truck in central Thailand yesterday. The Israelis were all lightly injured, and only two of them required hospitalization. They are slated to be released today. According to Thai police, the dead were an American and a Thai member of the bus crew. All the injured were tourists, and three of them were reported in serious condition. *Itim*

Man suspected of forging NIS 10 coins

The Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court remanded Zeinav Marwan for five days yesterday on suspicion that he had counterfeited NIS 10 coins.

Tel Aviv Police arrested Marwan, 30, of Jaffa, on Sunday after confiscating from him 6,500 disks they suspected he intended to use as the outer ring on the two-toned coin. He also had several fake coins, police said. *Heidi J. Gleit*

Low levels anticipated for Kinneret

Estimated water volume in the Kinneret at the end of the winter will be 200 million cubic meters less than average, reported Water Commissioner Meir Ben Meir in a meeting with the heads of the Agricultural Center yesterday.

Ben Meir recommended cutting agricultural water use by 120-140 million cubic meters, and to increase the output of the coastal desalination plant by 80 million cubic meters, over the coming year.

Shlomo Leshem, chairman of the produce branch of the Agricultural Center, said he would press for compensation to be paid to farmers whose crops would be damaged due to the proposed cutbacks. *Itim*

CORRECTION

Jordanian Minister of Information Nasser Joudeh did not say that his country is a one man show, as was reported in Friday's *Jerusalem Post*.

In bid to resolve religious-secular tensions

Barak, Bakshi-Doron mull joint panel

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Supreme Court President Aharon Barak is reportedly considering a proposal by Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron to establish a special committee of judges and dayanim (religious judges) that would find a way to improve relations between the religious and secular.

Channel 2 reported last night that the matter was discussed in an exchange of letters between Barak and Bakshi-Doron before Sunday's demonstrations for and against the High Court.

Bakshi-Doron made the suggestion in a letter last Wednesday, and received a reply that Barak does not rule out the idea. He said he would raise the matter in a discussion with other Supreme Court judges when the situation calmed down, Channel 2 said.

Asked if he would confirm the report that there were indications Barak is interested in opening such a dialogue, Bakshi-Doron said: "In a verbal conversation, I understood yes."

Barak was unavailable for comment.

Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau broke down during an interview broadcast on Channel 1 last night, recalling the Holocaust, and saying: "We have always known how to die together; the time has come that we learn how to live together."

Lau called on the Knesset to sit down "for a whole week" and discuss the religious-secular split.

Lau said yesterday that he and Bakshi-Doron had intended to attend the rally in defense of the Supreme Court on Sunday, but they were frightened away.

Lau said that according to the Israel Radio reports, Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg had spoken of a "war." He said that, and the fact that Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi had been booed when he began to speak, had dissuaded the two rabbis from attending.

Lau and Bakshi-Doron had attended the haredi-organized prayer rally to protest against the Supreme Court, especially in its function as the High Court of Justice.

Lau said that he had been in close contact with Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein concerning the appearance at the latter rally. He said that since it had been restricted to prayers, and since no signs had been visible from where he and Bakshi-Doron stood, near the entrance to the Chief Rabbinate offices, they had decided, in consultation with Rubinstein, to take part.

In an announcement by the Chief Rabbinate, the chief rabbis said that since the format of the rally had been changed, to one of prayer alone, they had decided that their place, and that of all rabbis, was with the worshipers.

Support for the chief rabbis in their fights against the Reform and Conservative movements was voiced by the conference of rabbinical court judges held recently at Kibbutz Lavi. The conference in its resolutions said it strengthened the hand of the Chief Rabbinical Council and the chief rabbis in their stand against "those who broke down the fence around the Tora of Israel and in particular against the Reform and Conservatives, who fight against the Tora of Israel with all their strength." The rabbinical court judges also called for a stop to the immigration of non-Jewish olim.

Former Sephardi chief rabbi Mordechai Eliahu said yesterday that the rally had shown that the differences between the various factions among the religious public were marginal. He said that aside from a possible conflict over Knesset seats, they had nothing to divide them and they should form one united religious party.

In a related development, the Reform movement in Israel has distributed 75,000 membership forms in the wake of a call from a number of noted Israeli writers and thinkers, including Amos Oz and A. B. Yehoshua for secular Israelis to express their solidarity with the Reform and Conservative movements, either by joining them or supporting them. Menachem Leibowitch, director of the Reform movement in Israel, said that the move was intended to further the demand for dialogue and recognition of everyone's personal faith.

Israel, Croatia sign defense agreement

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN



Croatian Defense Minister Paval Miljavac visits Yad Vashem in Jerusalem yesterday.

Israel and Croatia signed a defense cooperation agreement in Tel Aviv yesterday, and visiting Croatian Defense Minister Paval Miljavac announced that Israel is to upgrade a fleet of MiG 21 fighter jets.

Hosted by Defense Minister Moshe Arens, Miljavac also laid out the Croatian assessment of the volatile situation in the Balkans and their expectations from Kosovo. Israeli defense officials said Arens discussed with Miljavac the security situation in the Middle East, focusing on the proliferation of non-conventional weapons.

Teams from both sides are expected to work on ways to advance defense cooperation. It is the Croatian defense minister's first visit to Israel and he used it to sign the agreement to upgrade the MiG 21 BIS fighters. The deal was made, with the defense ministry's blessing, between Croatia and Elbit and Israel Aircraft Industries.

Details of the package were not made public, but the deal is reportedly worth from between $30 million to over $100 million. It is not clear whether the actual upgrade work will be done in Israel or in Croatia.

Defense officials would not confirm the reported price tag, saying that teams from both countries are still working out the details of the deal.

Croatia is keen to collaborate with Israel on joint ventures in hitech as well as in consultations on counter-terrorism and law enforcement. Croatian defense officials have already visited Israel and met with local defense industry officials. The MiG upgrade is part of its declared efforts to reach NATO standards.

More than a quarter of Croatia's 1999 budget was allotted to the military, but its military expenses have been largely kept top secret.

Israel and Croatia, which had been a Nazi puppet state during the Second World War, established diplomatic ties in 1997.

IDF awards prizes for excellence

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

And the winner of this year's IDF's prestigious chief of General Staff special award for excellence is.... censored.

Let's just say the special award went to an IDF intelligence unit that won because of its "originality and sophistication," but could not be identified further.

The 1998 prizes for excellence were given in five categories based on their high level of readiness, routine operations, personnel, and other logistic criteria. First prize in each group won NIS 50,000, second NIS 12,000, and third NIS 8,000.

The winners in the reserve unit category include three armored units, whose numbers are classified.

For operational units, the Gaza Division took first prize, followed by the Etzion Brigade.

The most excellent support unit was a Northern Command's ordnance unit, with second prize going to an air force supply base, and third to a tracked vehicle unit.

The navy's training school took top prize for the training units category, followed by the Ground Forces Command's Adam installation. Third prize went to the base which trains office clerks.

The air force's Hatzor base took second, with third prize going to the navy's elite underwater commando unit, known as Shayetet 13.

Speaking before a packed auditorium filled with members of the General Staff, senior officers and representatives of the units being awarded, Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz said getting the prize for excellence is only half the battle. Just as difficult, he said, was being able to maintain the excellence.

"There are three criteria for excellence in the IDF: ability to define the mission, the quality of the commanders and personnel, and the morale and motivation in the unit," Mofaz said.

Florida senator tours eastern Jerusalem

By AMY KLEIN



US Sen. Connie Mack (Kevin Unger)

US Sen. Connie Mack, visiting the Har Homa and Ras al-Amud neighborhoods in eastern Jerusalem yesterday as part of a week-long trip sponsored by the Zionist Organization of America.

The Republican senator from Florida and the entourage of ZOA board members and its president, Morton Klein, are scheduled to meet various members of the government, including Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu tonight in his home. The group met with Jerusalem's Mayor Ehud Olmert yesterday.

Klein said the ZOA brought Mack to teach him the truth about Israel. The ZOA has brought a handful of senators and congressmen to the country, said Klein.

"We will meet with various members of the current government to bring to their attention the violation of the Wye accords," said Klein, adding that Mack is one of the most powerful and important supporter of Israel.

Last April Mack co-authored with Sen. Joseph Lieberman the letter that was signed by 81 members of the Senate, urging President Clinton not to use public pressure against Israel in the peace process.

The group is also scheduled to visit illegally-built homes in eastern Jerusalem as well as talk to landowners who have allegedly been threatened by the Palestinian Authority.

Though they were not scheduled to meet with any Palestinian officials, Mack denied that the trip is controversial. "I have visited Israel a number of times in the past, and it makes sense to understand all sides of the issue," he said, standing on a hilltop over looking the Har Homa site.

Tomorrow evening, the group will meet with families of American citizens who were killed by terrorists. Klein is one of the figures behind the initiative to pressure the US government to extradite terrorists responsible for the deaths of American citizens.

Matza okays IVF limits for older women

By JUDY SIEGEL

Infertile women over 45 will not be able to undergo in-vitro fertilization with their own ova, and those over 51 won't be given ova donations to try to make them mothers. These are the main implications of recommendations made by a committee of doctors late last year and approved yesterday by Health Minister Yehoshua Matza.

The recommendations were first published in *The Jerusalem Post* three months ago.

Although the basket of health services allows all infertile women to try to have two babies by IVF at the expense of their health fund, this will now be limited on the basis of "medical considerations."

Prof. Neri Laufer, head of obstetrics/gynecology at Hadassah-University Hospital, Ein Kerem and a member of the experts' committee, last night welcomed Matza's decision, saying that money spent fruitlessly on trying to give older women babies could instead be channeled into giving those under 51 another chance with an egg donation.

Although a few hundred women in their 50s and 60s have managed to conceive through egg donations and deliver, "the success rates are extremely low, and we don't know much about safety and long-term results," Laufer said. "While we could offer this as clinical trials, IVF with egg donation for women over 51 should not be standard treatment."

But Laufer said that, with the new limitations, the ministry must urgently permit women not undergoing fertility treatments to donate ova to other infertile women.

There are hundreds of women needlessly waiting for an ovum donation that can give them the chance of having a baby.

According to existing ministry regulations, no payment may be made for a donated ova; the donor and the egg recipient must not know each other; and only women who are having their own eggs removed for in-vitro fertilization may donate eggs to women who have none.

The aim was to prevent commercialization of egg donations.

But Laufer insists that while the first two rules should remain, women who don't have fertility problems could donate eggs for altruistic reasons.

The cost of producing a baby in a younger infertile woman runs from $15,000 to $20,000 each, while in an older woman it can cost three to five times as much, with the chances of success much lower.

"These new limits are based solely on medical considerations – the chances for a pregnancy and delivery and the health of the mother and baby – and not on economic considerations," Laufer added. "No other country in the world – even in Scandinavia – have a health services basket so generous regarding IVF."

Among the other regulations adopted by Matza are: unsuccessful IVF of women or men that didn't result in a fertilized ova in three cycles of treatment would be followed by only one more attempt in a different IVF center; and women may undergo only four to six cycles a year, with no fewer than 45 days between each removal of eggs.

Since the recommendations were issued by the committee, the four health funds already adopted them as if they were binding.

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Elections

Settlers fail to decide on candidate

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

The Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza yesterday decided to delay a decision on which prime ministerial candidate to actively support. It opted instead to intensify its efforts to unite the smaller right-wing parties and embark on a campaign against Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak.

Spokeswoman Yehudit Tayar said all those present at the meeting in Psagot agreed on the necessity of a united right-wing bloc in the Knesset. A team established by the council to put the pressure on the various parties, she said, has been expanded and will present a progress report in 10 days.

Sources in the council declared that head of the Herut Party leader Ze'ev (Benny) Begin still opposes uniting, but Tekuma and Tsomet have reached an agreement.

Meanwhile, a campaign has been launched asking the public to call the MKs of the different parties and attempt to persuade them the importance of a strong, united Right.

Messages on the Internet are asking people here and abroad to contact MKs, and a list of telephone and fax numbers is provided.

"People must realize that the next government and Knesset will determine the future character of the State of Israel," said Tayar.

The second issue discussed at yesterday's meeting was whether to respond to recent statements directed at the settler population recently made by Barak and the Labor Party demanding a halt to funding settlements, said Tayar. It was decided that the statements could not be ignored any longer and that the council should respond.

Tayar said members were still undecided what form that response will take. Council members she said would plan their strategy within the coming days.

"The hypocrisy of Barak, a prime ministerial candidate, waving the banner of unity while constantly besmirching the settler community cannot be accepted," said Tayar. "It is unacceptable that Barak attack segments of the population and be allowed to get away with it."



Center Party leader Yitzhak Mordechai meets with taxi drivers in Tel Aviv yesterday. (Nili Keren)

ELECTIONS

notebook

Center's sign-up campaign going well

The Center Party has so far gathered 38,000 of the 50,000 signatures required to enter a candidate in the race for prime minister. A country-wide campaign to collect the signatures started last week. Party leader Yitzhak Mordechai has been busy visiting different conventions at different venues where supporters are signed up. Similarly, there are points in various cities, at universities and other sites, where the signatures are collected and campaign material distributed. Party officials said they hope to gather at least double the 50,000 signatures required. *Liat Collins*

Shalom celebrates his win

While Labor candidates gathered at Pavilion 31 of the Tel Aviv Fair Grounds to monitor their progress in the party primaries, the big winner in the Likud internal elections held a party at the Gan Oranim hall at the same compound. Science Minister Silvan Shalom, who came in second, after Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, held the celebration among "friends, colleagues, and central committee members" to thank them for their support.

The party was described as personal, but although journalists weren't invited, there was a media presence, including, of course, his wife radio and television personality and *Yediot Aharonot* journalist and heiress Judy Shalom Nir Mozes. Friends said Shalom is still interested in the Finance portfolio but did not use the celebration to forward this message. *Liat Collins*

Or Yehuda: A Likud town

Or Yehuda plans to welcome Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu with open arms when he shows up today to dedicate a center in his brother Yonatan's name, municipal spokesman Shlomi Mu'alam said yesterday. But Yitzhak Mordechai, who left the Likud to run for prime minister as the head of the Center Party, isn't going to get the same warm welcome next week, Mu'alam warned. "This is a Likud town and he's trying to crack it. This is serious, since in the last elections 80 percent of the residents voted for Likud," Mu'alam said. Despite this, Mayor Yitzhak Buchbaza will be on hand when Mordechai opens his party's headquarters in the town. "We didn't know that it was his city and that we couldn't campaign there," party spokeswoman Behira Bardugo said yesterday. *Heidi J. Gleit*

Anger runs deep in Umm el-Fahm

By BEN LYNFIELD

In Umm el-Fahm, the angry words spoken across the street from the Labor Party polling station yesterday were perhaps more significant than what was – or was not – going on inside.

"Likud, Labor, Meretz, it's all the same," Mohammed Awni, 37, said inside his bakery on Rehov Shikun Kadum.

Like other thoroughfares in this city of 35,000, [illegible] the Islamic Movement that runs the municipality.

"I always voted for Meretz, but this year I won't vote for anyone. I'll just stay home," said Awni.

The turning point for him, he said, came during last summer's clashes between residents of the town and police over plans to expropriate nearby agricultural land for a military zone.

Hundreds of residents were wounded by rubber bullets during four days of clashes, with the result that virtually the entire town knows someone who was hurt.

"This is our land, and no one from the parties came to help us," said Awni, who recalls throwing stones at police.

His three brothers were wounded in the violence.

"Elections are for the people in Tel Aviv, Haifa, and Jerusalem, not here," he said, standing near a poster of a policeman clubbing a local youth.

Another baker nodded in agreement.

Other residents said, however, that they intend to exercise their right to vote in May in the hope of redressing economic woes and boosting the peace process.

The balance in that debate among Arab voters could impact on the fortunes of Labor Party leader Ehud Barak.

The Labor Party has only 130 registered members in Umm el-Fahm, but given the town's size it could make a difference in a close contest for prime minister.

That possibility does not seem to [illegible] yet on Labor's leadership, [illegible] membership in Umm el-Fahm [illegible] dropped 50 percent since 1996.

There were no party banners or advertisements to be seen anywhere in town. Between 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., only three people cast votes in the primaries.

"There are still another four hours; they will get here," said Hilme Jaabarin, a Histadrut official overseeing the balloting.

He was immediately vindicated as two men walked in and picked up ballots.

"These are my cousins, Mustafa and Mohammed," Jaabarin said. "Fifty percent of those registered to vote are from my family," he added with a smile.

Besides family ties, Arabs end up in the ranks of Labor through membership in the Histadrut or their employment in government jobs, said Jaabarin.

Mustafa Jaabarin said he received a call from MK Adisu Massala soliciting his vote.

"Why shouldn't I vote for him. I think he's good," Mustafa said.

"We can understand the Ethiopians," said Hilme. "Both of us get discriminated against."

ON THE RECORD

I also asked to speak at that haredi rally and I was turned down. I know exactly what I'm doing and where it was important for me to speak – Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak

We are facing a serious social, cultural battle that I believe outstrips the security issue in its intensity... If for this purpose [of resolving the cultural rift in the country] we have to unify ourselves with the Likud and the Center Party, I have no doubt that this can be done – MK Binyamin Ben-Eliezer

I will face the next elections, in three months, as the head of a broad movement, a bloc of parties, movements and figures which will be called One Israel, and together we will lead to a change in the country – Barak

I just don't get what the stress is supposed to be about. I did all I could until today, and now there is no stress at all. Just waiting – Former deputy chief of General Staff Matan Vilna'i, during the Labor Party primaries

Politics is no less chauvinist than the military – Brig.-Gen. (res.) Yehudit Ben-Natan, running in the Labor Party primaries

Your identity is your identity. You don't have to play it up but you don't have to run away from it either – MK Shlomo Ben-Ami, rejecting the possibility he is being used as a token Sephardi at the top of Labor's list.

Moments before the assassination, I saw Rabin and Shimon Peres on the stage championing peace together, and I told my daughters: I'm joining the Labor Party – Labor Party candidate Yuli Tamir

The hypocrisy of Barak, a prime ministerial candidate, waving the banner of unity while constantly besmirching the settler community cannot be accepted, settler spokeswoman Yehudit Tayar

Likud, Labor, Meretz, it's all the same Umm el-Fahm resident Mohammed Awni



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אייר תור

YOU'LL FEEL THE CHANGE IN THE AIR EL AL

Campaigning Barak proudly declares primaries day:

'A festival of democracy'

By HEIDI J. GLEIT



Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak and his wife Nava cast their votes in Kochav Yair yesterday. (Yael Somekh/Israel Sun)

Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak spent yesterday shaking hands, smiling at the press, and declaring the day "a festival of democracy." And he wasn't even competing for a place on the party list. He also wasn't actively campaigning for any of his colleagues who were, though he shook the hands of and posed for photos with many of them.

He and Ronen Hoffman, who ran for the Sharon-Samaria seat, coincidentally showed up at Ora Weigea's Kochav Yair home, party headquarters in Barak's home town, at the same time. Hoffman appeared stunned, however, when he looked through Weigea's front door and saw that her kitchen contained about 30 journalists, in addition to the ballot box.

The other voters were equally taken aback by the journalistic ambush set for Barak.

"Can regular voters come in?" Moshe Ofir asked from the doorway.

"Is everyone in line?" asked another voter.

The journalists, however, were too busy arguing over who should stand where to pay much attention to the "regular voters" and candidate. For them, the day was an opportunity to watch an accomplished campaigner demonstrate that he really enjoys talking to the public, as Barak hugged and conversed with children and shook their parents' hands. He even ran into the middle of Givatayim's Rehov Weizmann to shake the hand of the town's rabbi, who happened to be driving by.

In Taiba, Nadia Hilo and Suraya Nujidat awaited Barak. After greeting the two Arab woman running for seats on the Labor list warmly and being introduced to their supporters, he gave a brief speech in Arabic, with some help from Nujidat.

"I'm proud that we have two Arab women running in the primaries. This is a historic event," Barak said to several dozen residents.

"We will do everything we can so that you will become the next prime minister. You have the support of the Arab women," Nujidat responded – in Hebrew.

In Givatayim and Kfar Shalem, young Labor supporters gathered outside the polling station to greet Barak, while in Tel Aviv, Mayor Ron Huldai and MK Haim Ramon joined him.

No matter who awaited him, Barak offered the same message: "I voted for the best candidates... I thought a long time before completing the ballot because we have such good candidates.

"What will come out on the list is what our voters want. Our list is not decided upon in cafes. Today is a festival of democracy."

The high turnout at the polling booths could be taken as proof that Labor members shared that feeling. By 3 p.m., 32 percent of the members had voted. In the Arab sector and Givatayim, the rate was even higher.

"In Givatayim, people are very aware of politics and of fulfilling their civic duty," party activist Safi Sharik said. "We have many activists here. And in Givatayim, they're all volunteers."

Several of the teens handing out fliers and stickers for candidates readily admitted that they weren't volunteers. Two 15-year-olds said they had gotten NIS 70 to spend five hours distributing campaign propaganda. Holon, where the Labor Party rented the stadium for its 4,000 local members to vote in, was even more profitable for ambitious teens. The going rate there was NIS 20 an hour.

In Kfar Shalem, however, several of the teenage boys who greeted Barak by chanting "Barak, king of Israel" declared that they were true supporters of the party and didn't need to be paid.

The new voting method didn't cause that much confusion, according to those manning the polls.

"The majority understood it, but some of the elderly found it difficult," Eli Aharon said, before explaining to Huldai that he should vote for nine to 11 candidates, mark off the five of them who he thinks belong at the top of the list, and vote for a candidate to fill the local slot.



MK Shlomo Ben-Ami visits the Labor Party branch in Jerusalem's Kiryat Hayovel section yesterday. Behind him (in the Adisu Massala T-shirt) is party activist Yonatan Takele. (Brian Hendler)

Ben-Ami, Beilin work hard for their votes

By LIAT COLLINS

If Labor MKs Shlomo Ben-Ami and Yossi Beilin get the high positions on the Knesset slate indicated by polls and reported lists of preferred candidates, nobody will be able to say they didn't work hard for it. Yesterday, as the primary elections took place, the two – running together with a joint campaign headquarters – "did" the country.

They started out in the morning from Tel Aviv and shook hands with well-wishers at polling stations in Kibbutz Ma'agan Michael, Haifa, Hadera, Netanya, Kfar Sava, Beersheba, Holon, and back to Tel Aviv, with Ben-Ami also fitting in a solo visit to Jerusalem.

Haim Ramon also hitched a ride for part of the way, describing himself as "the warm-up act." He, however, found himself playing second fiddle to the more popular duo.

Ben-Ami's supporters come from all over, he said. "Just check the results in the kibbutz movement. That will be the proof," he quips.

Asked to predict the results, Ben-Ami avoids the possibly sticky situation with one of the tricks that must have served him well as a former ambassador. He just runs off a list of basketball figures instead of political names and laughs it off. But clearly his supporters think he will get one of the top slots.



Yossi Beilin (Debbie Taylor-Zimelman)

While Beilin and Ben-Ami decided to join up to prove, in Beilin's words, "that even political rivals can work together," some of Ben-Ami's supporters are skeptical of the value of the move.

"I just hope it doesn't mean that Beilin pushes him out of the third slot [after party leader Ehud Barak and Shimon Peres]," said Jerusalemite David Ohayon.

Ohayon, wearing a white Ben-Ami T-shirt and a yellow Ben-Ami cap, did not spare superlatives in describing the professor turned politician. "He's what the Labor Party should be," he summed up. "Smart, pleasant, and hardworking."

Haim Dayan, wearing the same type of outfit, had taken time off from his job at the municipality to hand out material at the Kiryat Hayovel party branch. The flyers had a picture of Ben-Ami and the slogan: "A winning combination."

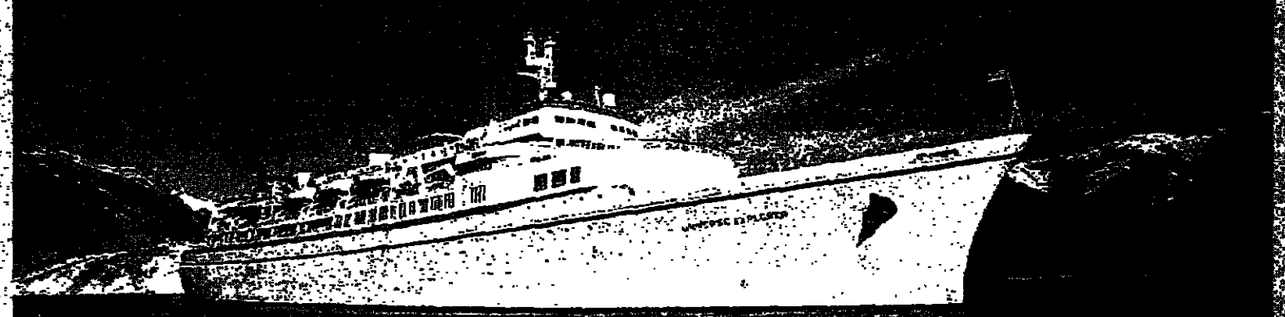
In the last elections, Ben-Ami was 34th on the party list, but after a meteoric rise in the faction in his first Knesset term, he ran against Barak, Beilin, and Ephraim Sneh for the party leadership.

His supporters reject the possibility that he is being used as a token Sephardi by the Labor leadership. "Such talk is a doing him a grievous wrong," said Dayan. "The Likud might need that sort of talk, but Ben-Ami is where he is on his own merits. His place is in Labor. He is a socialist and a professor, and I only wish there were more people like him in the party. Ben-Ami is not just for decorative purposes."

Ben-Ami also dismissed the ethnic angle. "I can't change the country," he said. "And you can't change who you are. Your identity is your identity. You don't have to play it up, but you don't have to run away from it either. It's part of every person's character. The most important thing is what you do with it. If you just cry and whine and manipulate others because of it, that's not good. But if it's just another layer in your character, it seems to me that that's all right."

"It's incidental to me that he is Sephardi," said Ya'acov Levy. "I voted for him because he's a decent human being. That's the secret of his success."

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Prof. Yuli Tamir (right) greets well-wishers yesterday at the Rishon Lezion voting station for the Labor Party primaries. (Ilan Ossendryver/Israel Sun)

Yuli Tamir to focus on post-peace politics

By NINA GILBERT

Yuli Tamir's last day on the campaign trail began with an early morning phone call to her home from Leah Rabin, who called to wish her success in yesterday's primaries.

It was a fitting start to her day, seeing that Yitzhak Rabin's leadership is what led Tamir to join the Labor Party three years ago and thrust herself into politics.

"Moments before the assassination, I saw Rabin and Shimon Peres on the stage championing peace together, and I told my daughters: I'm joining the Labor Party."

Yet, for the 44-year-old Tamir public activism is not new. She was one of the founders of Peace Now in 1978, and has been a force behind the Association of Civil Rights in Israel. She said she was able to find herself in Labor Party since "the gaps have narrowed" among party ideologies.

Tamir's campaign won a boost from Labor Party leader Ehud Barak, who openly backed her candidacy. Tamir, a professor of philosophy and education at Tel Aviv University, has served for the past few years as one of Barak's top policy advisers.

A longtime Jerusalem resident despite her university position, Tamir said she has decided to put her energies to more than writing books, after achieving rapid career success.

She also sees herself as part of the wave of increased involvement by Israeli women in politics as part of an "early boon of "post-peace politics," as the country focuses more of its energies on non-security issues.

Tamir, who says she will keep teaching if she enters the Knesset, plans to focus her efforts on education and social issues in the Knesset since "there are now many people saying what I have been saying about the peace process." Tamir wants to see a change in the country's educational curriculum to include a study of values and ideas after years of a neutral state educational agenda.

Yesterday, an energetic and relaxed Tamir blended in like a student with her young campaign staff.

Tamir's car has been a mobile campaign headquarters for the past four weeks, racking up some 10,000 km. The Labor Party's decision to stick to the primary system took her all over the country to meet voters, from kibbutzim, to Arab villages, Nahariya, and Rosh Hanikra. "The only place I didn't reach is Eilat," she noted.

First heading south yesterday morning, Tamir arrived in Beersheba to meet voters face to face and to encourage her campaign volunteers. Some 4,000 Labor Party members were registered to vote in Beersheba. Afterwards, Tamir headed for Netivot, Ashkelon, Rishon Lezion, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Ra'anana and back to Jerusalem.

While on the highway calls flooded in from supporters throughout the country – from Karmiel, Shlomi, Netanya, Jerusalem, Netivot, and Beersheba.

In one call, Tamir was delighted to hear from a supporter that she had been included in the United Kibbutz Movement voting package.

Despite Barak's backing Tamir said she was not taking for granted that the endorsement would lead to her achieving a realistic spot.

Tamir had planned to run in the 2000 elections, but the vote for early elections meant she had to organize quickly – with a limited budget. "I'm not an Avraham Burg or a Shlomo Ben-Ami," she conceded after seeing the sea of color posters at the Beersheba party headquarters, while she had to made do with stickers bearing her name and ballot number 45.

At the same time, Tamir has become a hot media item in the past week. In the space of one hour yesterday, all of the radio and television shows tried to persuade her to make another appearance last night. "Two weeks ago, no one knew who I was," she noted.

Tamir hasn't canceled any classes during the campaign, but when she arrived hoarse last week, her students sent her home to rest. Many of Tamir's students helped out on her campaign.

At the end of the day, Tamir said, what matters is that "we did our best with what we had."

The new general on the block

By DANNA HARMAN

Matan Vilna'i isn't one for small talk. Up until a few months ago, he was a career military man – a major-general of few words, much action, and great ambition. And while he may have traded in his army greens for preppy dark blues, he remains a man of action and ambition who has yet to pick up the politician's gift of the gab.

Asked yesterday if he had any butterflies on the day of the Labor Party's primaries, Vilna'i looked the questioner right in the eye and countered with his own question. "Do you want to me to tell you that I am nervous, or should I tell the truth?" he asked in his trademark deep drawl.

And, as Vilna'i crisscrossed the country from Jerusalem to Haifa and back to Tel Aviv via Baka al-Rabia and Ra'anana yesterday, hitting as many of the 554 polling stations as time allowed, it was quite clear what that truth was.

"Please, this is far from being a battlefield," he noted dryly, as he jumped into his wife Anat's car at the start of the long day.

Biting into a Granny Smith apple, and taking one call after another from well-wishers, he summed up the situation briefly. "I just don't get what the stress is supposed to be about. I did all I could until today, and now there is no stress at all. Just waiting."

Vilna'i's straightforward style and honesty, along with his formidable military reputation and a certain resemblance to Yitzhak Rabin, have together garnered the political novice an immense amount of support among Labor voters. And while Vilna'i is one of the most recent newcomers to the Labor race – having joined the party and entered the primaries race just three weeks ago – he is also the newcomer cited as most likely to succeed.

Fellow newcomers Colette Avital and Yuli Tamir are also being touted as possible new Labor list faces, but they are helped by the allocation of seats to women. Newcomer Oren Shahor, another reserve major-general with a fair chance of placing on the list, is below Vilna'i in the polls, and Avraham Burg, who is expected to gain a high position on the list, is really not a newcomer at all, having served as a Labor MK before.



Matan Vilna'i: Politics is far from a battlefield. (Israel Sun)

"We receive this new boy Matan with open arms," said old time Labor Party member Zvi Rosen, who began his Labor path as a neighborhood activist in 1953 and is today in charge of the branch in Jerusalem's Kiryat Yovel. "He is a political asset to the party, he was a successful deputy chief of General Staff, he is a humble man who did not ask for any promises from the party, and on top of all that he is a Jerusalemite. He is, in no way, an unknown commodity here."

Vilna'i was born in 1944 in Jerusalem, studied History at Tel Aviv University, married and had three boys, held academic fellowships at Harvard and Johns Hopkins, and dedicated most of his life to the army. He started out as a private in the paratroopers in 1962 and ended his career last July as deputy chief of General Staff. After failing to be appointed as chief of General Staff, Vilna'i left his military home in an abrupt huff, publicly accusing members of the military and political establishments of having promised – and then reneged – on giving him the coveted post.

The son of a die-hard Herutnik took his time deciding whether or not to enter politics, and then momentarily seemed to flirt with Likud, where Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu reportedly offered him the position of defense minister. Vilna'i officially joined the opposition last month, refusing an offer to have a place for him secured, and expressing his hope that he will manage to place among the top five out of the 83 strong pool by the strength of his own merits.

Arriving in Kfar Sava yesterday, the candidate was greeted with cheers of "Oh, ah, here's our next defense minister."

Actually, however, the man who spent 36 years in fatigues is more interested in being the education minister. "There are enough talents crowding about the field of defense," he said earlier in the day during a pit stop at his Mevasseret home. "In education I feel there will be more room for initiating action. It is our future, and I am looking forward."

Brig.-Gen. (Res.) Ben-Natan pessimistic about realistic slot

By LIAT COLLINS

Among the military men running for election, there is also a woman. Brig. Gen. (Res.) Yehudit Ben-Natan, former head of the IDF Women's Corps, ran in the Labor party primary elections yesterday but said she received less coverage than other high-ranking retired officers entering the political world.

"Politics is no less chauvinist than the military," she said. "[Male] generals who leave the army are the focus of incredible public attention. But I am the highest ranking woman officer to run for election and the public recognition I have received is very, very low."

Part of the problem, she said, is that in the year of her demobilization leave after 27 years in the military, she was not allowed to speak or hold press conferences "because I claimed that the army is conservative and chauvinist and does not allow women to get ahead and use their full potential. I see now that in Israeli society the attitude is the same and it is no less difficult for women in public life."

Ben-Natan said she started the day yesterday more optimistic about her chances but her hopes faded as the day went on. "I thought it would be fairer but I see there are all sorts of deals going on," she said towards the evening. "There are entire lists in which only one woman candidate appears and the others are all men."

She said she knows for sure that there are lists of preferred candidates and instructions have been given to party activists concerning whom to vote for. Both party leader Ehud Barak and secretary general Raanan Cohen have consistently denied such lists and deals exist. Media reports have said that Barak favors Prof. Yuli Tamir as a new woman candidate and former leader Shimon Peres prefers Colette Avital.



Yehudit Ben-Natan: Chauvinism in politics no better than in the army. (IDF Spokesman)

If elected, Ben-Natan said she would not concentrate solely on women's issues but on socio-economic matters such as unemployment. "These are the most important issues in the country."

And if she is not elected, she said: "I will have to make some decisions but only in another couple of weeks or so. I'm in no hurry. I am working in the meantime."

Work is another place where Ben-Natan breaks stereotypes. She is the director of a construction company.

The one thing she said she won't be doing is trying her luck with the new Center Party. "I have been a member of the Labor party for many years and I remain a member of the Labor party." But she admitted she has been "disappointed" by her experience.

Young faces for Labor?

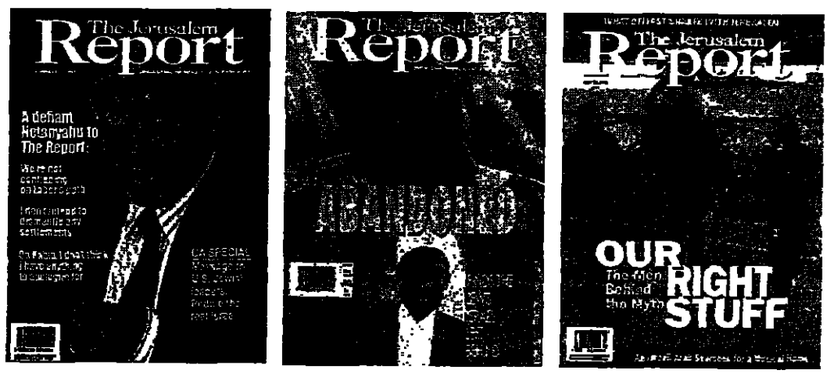
In addition to the party stalwarts, the Likud's Knesset list includes a number of new faces, like Gila Gamliel, Gilad Arden, and Liat Rahmer, three students in their 20s. Tomer Shilo was hoping that the same would happen in the Labor Party, though the 24-year-old law student wasn't that optimistic when the polls closed last night.

"I don't have high expectations, but I hope that in the larger picture things will work out well," said Shilo, who spent yesterday campaigning at polling stations in Ra'anana, Kfar Sava, Tel Aviv, Netanya, and his home town of Herzliya.

"I hope that I opened a few eyes," he added. "I met many people and most of the candidates in the process, and am sure it will be a good list, whether I am on it or not."

Heidi Gleit

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Tinky Winky world

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

If anyone still wonders what friends of President Bill Clinton were standing against when they stood firmly by his side for the past traumatic year, a glance at the current issue of *National Liberty Journal* should remind them.

So would a pause to consider the possible implications of a Dan Quayle presidency. Dan has been repeating for the past couple of weeks, in case we hadn't heard him, that he is really very serious about his candidacy for the presidency in 2000: "The fight for our values begins today." We hear you, Dan.

Ah, values. Rev. Jerry Falwell's *National Liberty Journal* has chosen to go to war against a television program, just as Dan Quayle did all those years ago against the fictional Murphy Brown for having a child out of wedlock. He made an ass of himself then, enter Falwell now.

In line with the dumbing down of the fundamentalist voter, the new target is not nearly as intelligent as the *Murphy Brown* series. It is a program designed for British people under three years of age, called *Teletubbies*. It now airs in the United States (and will reach Israeli toddlers soon.)

Paint that triangle

The characters are vaguely alien and blobby, they live in a dome, they romp among rabbits and flowers along with friendly pieces of household technology. Toddlers apparently love this program, although it has been criticized by some educators for the somewhat inarticulate sounds Teletubbies make.

National Liberty Journal did not take up the linguistic issue, but the family-values one. One of the genderless characters, a Mr./Miss Tinky Winky is purple, wears a triangular antenna on his/her head, carries a red magic purse and disturbs Jerry Falwell. T. Winky is clearly a raving rainbow homosexual, he says. This "no doubt is intentional, and parents are warned to be alert...."

Well, let's just run the gay little alien rat out of town – he's clearly a Democrat. The fundamentalist religious fringe is not modern Republicanism in toto – even Dan is more centrist-stupid than sinister – but this game of "my values are your values or else" is a dangerous one, and the fringe has some stupidly dangerous people.

Amid the smirks let us pause to recall the sobering fact that the Nazis made homosexuals wear a pink triangle on their lonely march to extermination. That triangle on Tinky Winky's head means what, Jerry?

Knot crazed

"If Dwight Eisenhower had come back from the war and decided to run as a Democrat – which he almost did – there would be no Republican party today," wrote Hunter S. Thompson in 1994. "They would be like the Ku Klux Klan, small knots of hate-crazed rich people scattered in walled ghettos around the country...."

And your point is, Hunter? What did that pointless partisan impeachment trial in the walled Senate look like? This weekend, 73 percent of Americans polled the opinion that Special Prosecutor Kenneth Starr is a boring loser, and 70% said Congressional Republicans are the same. To add insult to honesty, the public gave Congress a 31% approval rating for the way it is doing its job for the country.

The last 10 years of recent centuries generally have been associated with a measure of decadence – but also with prosperity and creativity. The 1890s were similar to our decade in many ways. Try not to think of what happened to the first 45 years of the new century after that.

In 1985, Ronald Reagan warned that "this generation may be the one that will have to face the end of the world as we know it."

Be careful what you predict, the gods may grant it. It was not quite what Reagan meant, but the world as he knew it was Cold War, economic gloom and American industry on the way to being bought up by Japan Inc.

It is true that even some of Clinton's most loyal friends will welcome a change in 2000. The Clinton presidency has been a bit like the '60s that made him – what a ride, what a rush, what a hangover! But for change, Gore sounds about right, it even rhymes with bore, while Quayle sounds too close to quake.

Peace, prosperity, pants

The family-values hypocrites have fallen flat on their faces over their relentless war against Clinton. They will be back for revenge, so no one should expect that the latest Falwell idiocy is the last from the religious Right. Nor should anyone be taken in by Dan Quayle learning to spell potato since we last heard of him, or growing wise enough not to attack Murphy Brown for getting cancer of the breast, rather than in a more puritan-values-friendly part of her body.

Given a choice between an oversexed, a fundamentalist, or a stupid American president, hands up, all – and the votes of David Letterman and Jay Leno don't count. "Pants" may have become an alliteration associated with the Clinton presidency, but peace and prosperity also fit, and Americans apparently are well aware of it.

Current Disney-values Republicans seem set on proving that "it's a small-minded world after all." Never mind a land fit for heroes, that can wait. Let's just keep one that's safe for Tinky Winkys.

A burning question

Is the peaceful coexistence between cigarette makers and gum and patch marketers a result of pressure tactics employed by the tobacco giants against drug firms?

By MYRON LEVIN



Some observers have suggested there is a symbiotic relationship between drug and tobacco firms as millions of would-be quitters cycle between buying cigarettes and gum or patches in a long-term struggle against nicotine addiction. (Sarit Uziely)

Cigarette makers and the drug firms that market nicotine gum and patches would seem to be natural enemies, at war in a multibillion-dollar market of people hooked on nicotine.

Yet a peaceful coexistence has reigned between them since nicotine replacement products were introduced in the 1980s to help smokers kick the habit.

The quit-smoking aids are widely advertised and in recent years have joined such remedies as Advil, Tums and Robitussin on a list of the country's top-selling over-the-counter medicines. Yet they are promoted in a manner certain to minimize conflict with cigarette manufacturers.

Veterans of the smoking wars think they know why.

For at least a decade, the tobacco industry sought to intimidate drug firms marketing the stop-smoking products, using the threat of economic reprisals to make them tone down their ads and refrain from supporting the anti-smoking cause, according to once-secret documents from the world's biggest cigarette maker – Philip Morris. Company officials declined interview requests.

Pressure tactics were used against at least two major drug firms between 1982 and 1992, although they may have continued beyond that date. A nonconfrontational marketing approach for the nicotine products remains in use today.

Moreover, within the last three years, a major worldwide supplier of cigarette filters to the tobacco industry has become a power in the gum and patch business, thus playing in both arenas of the nicotine market.

Drug firms say their ads are not intended to appease the tobacco industry, but rather aim for the best approach to boosting sales. Even so, their marketing message is the same one that cigarette makers sought to dictate in the past by threatening to cancel supply contracts with the drug firms' corporate parents, internal memos show.

Rather than attack cigarettes directly or implore all smokers to quit, their ads target the narrow band of smokers who are currently trying to quit – offering a product that can help ease their nicotine cravings.

As ads for top-selling Nicorette gum put it, "You can do it. Nicorette can help." It's a catchy slogan, but also consistent with guidelines tobacco executives sought to impose when the gum was introduced. For example, a 1985 Philip Morris memo cited the tobacco firm's "understanding" with the marketer of Nicorette that it would avoid "emotional... pleas to stop smoking" and advertise "strictly on the basis of 'if you want or need to quit, we have the product.'"

The involvement of drug firms in anti-smoking politics has been limited as well. Since gaining federal approval in 1996 for over-the-counter sales, patch and gum marketers have financially supported the American Cancer Society and American Lung Association in exchange for using their logos in ads. But to the disappointment of tobacco foes, they have chosen not to involve themselves directly in political fights – such as by lobbying for higher tobacco taxes that would help their business by making quitting more attractive.

Considering the history of tobacco industry pressure, "I think there's no question that there's still a residual influence," said Gregory N. Connolly, director of tobacco control for Massachusetts.

Some observers have even suggested there is a symbiotic relationship between drug and tobacco firms as millions of would-be quitters cycle between buying cigarettes and gum or patches in a long-term struggle against nicotine addiction.

For their part, drug companies say their targeting of committed quitters – rather than the universe of smokers – reflects the reality that quitting is extremely difficult. Targeting those who are ambivalent about quitting – and thus almost certain to fail – can only breed a sense of defeat and a poor image for the products.

"There's nothing more important in making a quit attempt than being committed to it," said George Quesnelle, vice president and director of medical marketing and sales for SmithKline Beecham Consumer Health Care, the top marketer of patches and gum. "If people quit smoking using our products, that creates great word of mouth... but there's nothing that can kill a product faster than bad word of mouth."

Since the Food and Drug Administration approved non-prescription sales, the over-the-counter sales have increased sharply to about $700 million per year. Another $100m. to $200m. is spent on prescription-only nicotine products – patches, inhalers and nasal sprays. Non-nicotine products also are prescribed for smoking cessation, including Glaxo Wellcome's Zyban anti-depression drug.

With its 90 percent share of over-the-counter sales, Smith-Kline has a huge lead on its only rival in that market, Johnson & Johnson's McNeil Consumer Healthcare.

SmithKline has its own generally unknown link to the tobacco industry. While the patch and gum business bears the SmithKline name, it is actually a joint venture between the pharmaceutical firm and Hoechst Marion Roussel, a subsidiary of German giant Hoechst A.G.

Another Hoechst subsidiary, Celanese, is the world's largest producer of the cellulose acetate used to make cigarette filters – a business worth hundreds of millions of dollars in annual sales.

Officials of SmithKline and Hoechst Marion Roussel say the tobacco connection has not compromised their marketing of nicotine patches and gum.

If so, the lack of interference would be a notable exception.

Documents disclosed in anti-tobacco lawsuits show that cigarette makers exerted significant pressure on gum and patch marketers from at least the early 1980s to the early 1990s.

WHEN Nicorette was made available by prescription in the early 1980s in Europe, Canada and later the United States, Philip Morris sought to keep the original marketer of the nicotine gum, Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals, on a tight leash. (SmithKline got involved in the business later in a joint venture with the Dow subsidiary. Eventually, Dow sold the unit to Hoechst.) The pressure point: a long-standing, multimillion-dollar customer relationship between cigarette makers, including Philip Morris, and Merrell Dow's corporate parent, Dow Chemical, which sold tobacco companies the chemical humectants they use to keep tobacco moist.

A July 21, 1982, memo revealed Philip Morris' ire when Merrell Dow began publishing a smoking cessation newsletter as part of its Nicorette launch. According to the memo, tobacco executives told Dow the problem was not Nicorette per se, but publication of "anti-smoking propaganda, particularly literature which has little or no scientific basis." Subsequent memos show the newsletter was killed after that first issue.

When Merrell Dow's 1984 US launch of Nicorette again offended Philip Morris, the tobacco maker retaliated by canceling chemical purchases from Dow. The move was retribution for the "offensive" Nicorette campaign, Philip Morris executives told Dow, according to a May 7, 1984, memo.

Dow sought to make amends, and was rewarded a few months later when Philip Morris resumed a portion of the chemical purchases, said an Oct. 25, 1984, memo.

Dow assured Philip Morris it was "committed to avoid contribution to the anti-cigarette effort," the memo said. And in an extraordinary gesture of appeasement, Merrell Dow president David Sharrock informed tobacco executives that he personally had begun "screening advertising and promotional materials to eliminate any inflammatory anti-industry statements."

Philip Morris used a similar strategy several years later when Swiss chemical giant Ciba-Geigy began marketing Nicorette under license in Europe, according to internal Philip Morris memos.

A memo in January 1988 urged retaliation against Ciba. A boycott or "even a Philip Morris-funded negative publicity campaign... would send a strong message to a few other multinational corporations who could be investigating possible opportunities in the growing 'anti-tobacco' industry," the memo said.

It's uncertain if the recommendation was followed. But four years later Philip Morris and R.J. Reynolds did put pressure on Ciba when it launched its Habitrol nicotine patch in the US. Ciba was a big supplier of agricultural chemicals, including products used by tobacco farmers. Accordingly, the two cigarette makers and a North Carolina growers group implored Ciba's agricultural chemicals division to intercede with its pharmaceutical branch. The goal: to assure "more appropriate advertising for this product in the future," the memo said.

The mission was accomplished. Skip Raglund, formerly of Ciba and now vice president for communications with Novartis Corp., said Ciba's pharmaceutical executives agreed to restrict their advertising appeals to "people who were committed to quitting."

For all the fears of tobacco companies, research suggests that a relatively small proportion of smokers who use gums and patches actually quit on any one attempt. The products double the odds of quitting, but the quit rate remains low.

According to some studies, on any single attempt people who try quitting cold turkey succeed about 3 percent of the time, whereas success with gum or patches rises to 7% or 8% – even higher when the products are combined with counseling.

(Los Angeles Times)

American Indians vulnerable to violent crime

By ERIC LICHTBLAU

WASHINGTON – American Indians are victims of violent crime at a rate more than double that of the rest of the population, according to the first nationwide survey the federal government has done on the subject.

The severity of the problem – reaching American Indians of all ages, backgrounds and income levels – surprised even the Justice Department researchers who released the study Sunday. American Indians said that the numbers should prompt a redoubling of efforts to identify the root causes.

"It's a double-edged sword. People don't want to be stereotyped as violent – that's not part of who we are – but statistics like this might also encourage people to take steps toward intervention," said Anna Pasqua, an American Indian who coordinates a domestic violence program with the Inter-Tribal Council of California in Sacramento.

Alcohol abuse, tensions with non-American Indians, poor law enforcement services and other factors may all play a part in fueling the high rates of violent crime identified in the study, American Indian leaders said.

A wave of worsening crime and social ills on reservations in recent years has drawn stepped-up attention from federal policy-makers. But the study documents the range and extent of the problem, researchers said, and it details several particularly troubling twists, such as the frequency of assaults by non-American Indians and the extent of alcohol abuse by American-Indian offenders.

"We now know that American Indians experience a much greater exposure to violence than other race groups," Lawrence A. Greenfeld of the Bureau of Justice Statistics, co-author of the report, said in an interview.

"I was very surprised," he said. "The common wisdom was that blacks experience the highest exposure to violence. And when we released the (crime) survey results year after year, that was the result. This adds a new dimension to our understanding of the problem."

AMERICAN Indians number about 2.3 million in the United States, or less than 1 percent of the population. A quarter of that number are thought to live on reservations.

Justice Department statisticians said that they never before had broken out rates of crime among American Indians because the statistical sample was too small. But in response to numerous queries about the extent of the problem, the department decided to review five years worth of data, looking at 150,000 incidents of violence a year and other crimes among American Indians who live on and off reservations.

"The findings reveal a disturbing picture of American Indian involvement in crime as both victims and offenders," said Jan M. Chaiken, director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

American Indians, 12 years old and older, were reported to be victims of violent crime at a rate two times greater than the rest of the population, with one violent crime for every eight people. Among all races, there was one incident for every 20 people.

Assault and, to a lesser extent, rape posed particular problems.

The rate for murder, however, was largely consistent with other races.

The high rates of victimization held true for American Indians of different income levels, ages, gender and backgrounds. American Indians in rural areas, for instance, were two times more likely than rural blacks or whites to be the victims of crime.

Researchers were surprised to find that, in seven of 10 violent episodes against American Indians, the offender was reported to be a non-American Indian.

"One of the lessons here," Greenfeld said, "is that we're going to have to do a much better job in learning about the circumstances of this interracial violence." Abuse and neglect of children was found to be a particular problem, bucking national trends. American Indians reported an 18% increase in reports of abuse and neglect from 1992 to 1995, at a time when the national average dropped 8%.

And alcohol abuse by offenders has continued to prove troublesome.

Seven of 10 American Indians in local jails for violent crimes had been drinking when they committed the offense, nearly double the rate for the general population. Moreover, American Indians were imprisoned at a rate 38% higher than the national average.

Tom LeClaire, a member of the Mohawk tribe who is director of the US Justice Department's Office of Tribal Justice, said the study "confirms what we long had suspected and had been observing empirically." In an interview, he pointed to a number of possible explanations, including the recent proliferation of gangs on reservations, "woefully inadequate" detention facilities, and the "hostility and mistrust" between reservations and their neighbors.

But, he emphasized, there are no certain explanations for the troubling phenomenon. "If I could answer that, I'd have a corner on the market. There are no easy answers," he said.

(Los Angeles Times)

DRIVE CAREFULLY



هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

Milutinovic: Serbia ready for compromise, but not NATO presence

By DUSAN STOJANOVIC

PARIS (AP) – Serbia is willing to make major compromises and grant rival ethnic Albanians broad self-rule, but adamantly opposes NATO troops to police a Kosovo agreement, its president said yesterday.

"We can't compromise on that," Milan Milutinovic said.

He spoke as the Kosovo peace conference headed toward a fast-approaching deadline, with the US bearing down on the Serbians to make a deal with Kosovo Albanians or suffer bombardment by NATO forces.

For the first time since the Kosovo conference started February 6, Milutinovic indicated the Serbians were willing to give up most of their demands that have stalled the talks – with the exception of NATO peacekeeping troops.

In an interview, Milutinovic reiterated his objections to foreign troops backing any deal and said NATO bombing raids, in the absence of an agreement, would amount to "an aggression and a war crime."

Asked whether the proposed NATO deployment was the major sticking point and the rest was negotiable, Milutinovic said: "Yes, that is right. We don't think that the troops are needed if the agreement is good and acceptable to the majority of people living in Kosovo," Milutinovic said, adding that abandoning NATO demands for a peace-keeping force was a "precondition" for any eventual peace deal.

He said any NATO deployment would "badly damage our sovereignty."

With just five days to a deadline set by the US and five of its European allies for a deal to be signed, Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov yesterday visited the 14th-century French chateau where the talks are being held.

Russia is pushing just as hard as the US for a resolution of the Kosovo conflict by Saturday. But Moscow opposes the use of NATO air strikes and is non-committal on the deployment of international peacekeeping troops.

Milutinovic, however, said the Serbians wouldn't be surprised if the Russians change their minds regarding NATO, under Western pressure.

Ivanov, after meeting with both delegations, told reporters he was convinced "they realize the importance of the moment."

On Sunday, US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright berated Milutinovic at a Paris meeting that Serbian sources described as extremely unpleasant.

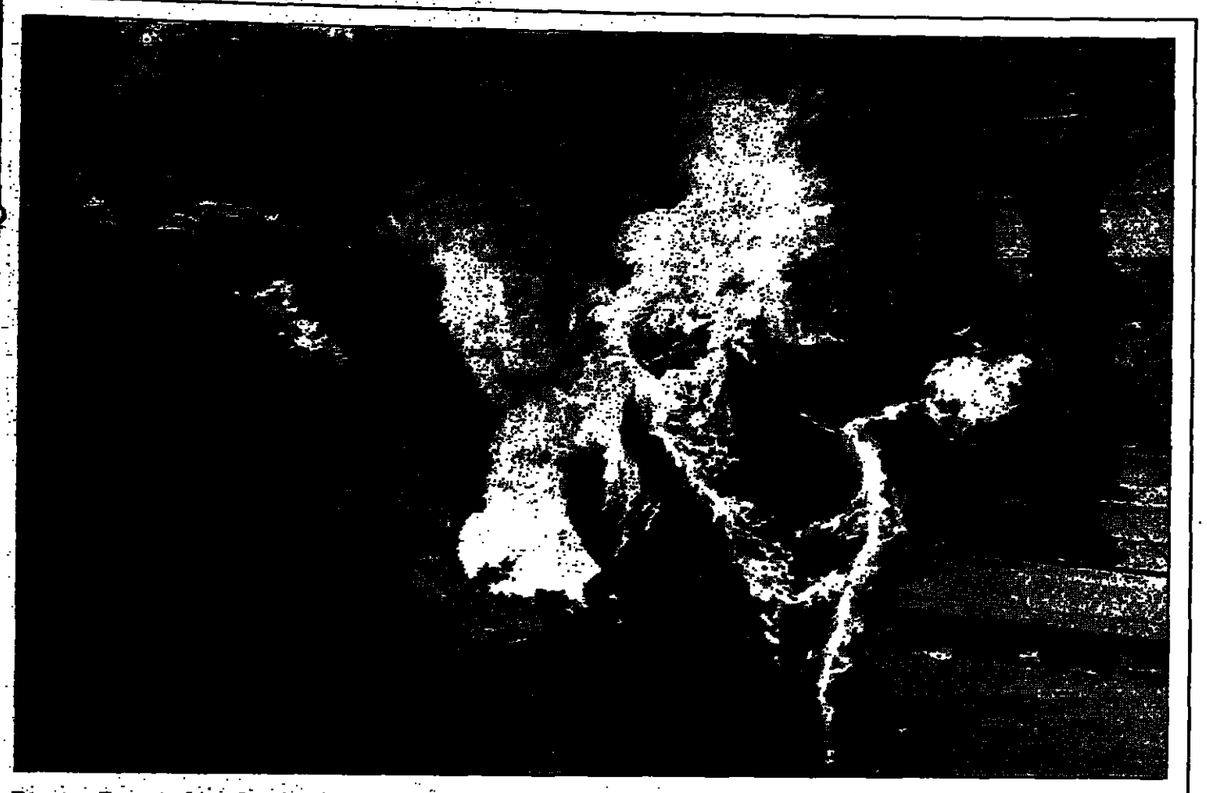
The Albanians, she said later, seemed to accept the international peace plan that would grant them virtual self-rule in Kosovo but keep the Serbian province within existing borders.

But the Albanians want NATO troops to police any agreement, because they don't trust the Serbian government, whose crackdown against separatists has left 2,000 people dead and up to 300,000 homeless.

NATO already is making plans to send up to 30,000 troops into Kosovo, including 4,000 US troops.

A Kosovo Albanian close to the talks, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that Albright laid out three possibilities to their delegation:

- The Albanians don't sign, and they lose all American support. The US shuts down its border with Albania and Macedonia, closes all the roads and cuts off supplies to the rebels.
- The Albanians sign and the Serbs don't. The US gives strong support to the Albanians and bombs the Serbs.
- Everybody signs. NATO enters Kosovo and polices the agreement.



Demanding asylum for Ocalan

Flames engulf a Kurdish protester who set fire to himself during a demonstration outside the Greek parliament building in Athens yesterday. The demonstrators demanded that Greece offer asylum to Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan. The protester suffered serious burns to his face and hands, and at least one other demonstrator suffered minor burns. (AP)

Turkey rebuffs Iraq on air base demand

By SELCAN HACAOGLU

ANKARA (AP) – Turkey's premier yesterday rebuffed a top Iraqi official's demand that Ankara stop allowing US and British planes to use a Turkish base for overflights above Iraq.

Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit said he made clear to visiting Iraqi Deputy Premier Tariq Aziz that the overflight mission is operating under the strict control of Turkish officers and that US jets are only striking at Iraqi defense sites when attacked or targeted.

"Aziz confirmed that Iraqis were firing on the planes to show their sovereignty on the air space," Ecevit said.

Even as Aziz was urging Turkey to resist foreign influence, two separate confrontations occurred in northern Iraq, where the US jets attacked Iraqi defense sites before returning to Incirlik base in southern Turkey.

"We have to deal with our bilateral relations in a direct, straightforward manner and we shall not let foreigners interfere in those relations," said Aziz.

Ankara wants to maintain good relations with neighboring Iraq, a former trading partner, but does not want to upset Washington, its close NATO ally.

"We discussed our legitimate concerns in a friendly and open manner," Aziz said, without elaborating.

Ecevit has questioned the legitimacy of the US attacks. But even before Aziz's arrival on Sunday, his government said it was out of the question to yank permission for US fighter planes to use Incirlik to enforce a "no-fly" zone over northern Iraq.

While Turkey hosts the US and British planes which patrol northern Iraq, bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are used for patrols over southern Iraq.

Iraq yesterday claimed five civilians were killed when US planes attacked sites in the southern no-fly zone.

Meanwhile, in Ankara, US Air Force Gen. Lloyd Newton held talks in the Turkish General Staff headquarters.

"The general's presence reflects the importance of our military cooperation. In the broader sense, it reflects the importance the United States attaches to Turkey," US Ambassador Mark Parris told reporters.

The US has criticized Turkey for inviting Aziz at a time of heightened tension.

Washington asked Turkey to make it clear to Aziz that the the current confrontation with Iraq is the result of Baghdad's eight-year-long refusal to comply with UN resolutions and more recently its challenges to the no-fly zones.

Turkish officials were expected to warn Iraq against harboring Turkish Kurdish rebels, who have been fighting for autonomy within Turkey.

Sinn Fein under attack as Belfast politicians debate accord

By SHAWN POGATCHNIK

BELFAST (AP) – Protestants heaped scorn on Sinn Fein leaders during a debate yesterday over whether to accept plans for a cross-community government, with one spectator yelling, "Hand in your guns, you murderer!"

The shout, from a relative of an Irish Republican Army victim, came in the Belfast Assembly after Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams called for Protestant politicians to accept his IRA-allied party's democratic credentials "without preconditions."

And when Martin McGuinness complained that Protestants should stop calling his party "Sinn Fein-IRA," hard-line Protestant politician Peter Robinson sarcastically retorted that McGuinness shouldn't feel "embarrassed and ashamed" of his IRA links.

Following three days of debate, most of the legislature's 108 members are expected to vote in favor of the package for a new Northern Ireland government.

That vote is supposed to clear the way for Protestant politician David Trimble and Catholic politician Seamus Mallon to oversee the formation of a 12-member administration drawn from Trimble's Ulster Unionists, Mallon's Social Democratic and Labor Party, Sinn Fein, and the Democratic Unionists.

The British government wants to start handing over responsibilities to the local administration on March 10, but has conceded that deadline probably won't be met.

Instead, this week's vote is likely to confirm growing dissent within the ranks of the Ulster Unionists, whose backing for the accord is essential to making it work.

While Trimble emphasized again Monday that he won't allow Sinn Fein to join the administration if the IRA doesn't start disarming, that hasn't placated two party members who already have said they will join the ranks of the anti-agreement Protestants.

If those two vote "no" as promised, it would leave Trimble with a maximum of 28 Protestants supporting his position and 30 opposing him.

The peace accord specified that controversial votes in the Assembly would require support from both its Protestant and Catholic blocs, preferably with a minimum 50 percent backing from each.

Foreseeing the potential for Protestant divisions to torpedo progress, however, the accord suggested that just 40 percent support from either side of the house could be deemed sufficient. This means that the government plans will pass if Trimble can deliver at least 24 Protestant votes.

Clinton, Pope among 118 nominees for Nobel Peace Prize

By DOUG MELLGREN

OSLO (AP) – US President Bill Clinton, US peace envoy Richard Holbrooke, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and Pope John Paul II were among 118 nomination's announced yesterday for this year's Nobel Peace Prize.

Awards committee secretary Geir Lundestad said the number of nominations could increase but would probably fall short of the record 139 candidates for last year's prize.

"We can't set a record every year," he said.

The five-member awards committee accepts nominations postmarked by February 1, and can add its own candidates at its first meeting of the year on February 26.

The Nobel prizes are announced in October. The amount for this year's prizes has not been set, but in recent years each prize has been worth about $1 million.

In keeping with the committee's strict policy of secrecy, names of candidates – 85 individuals and 33 organizations this year – are not released, partly to protect some from persecution at home.

Those making nominations, however, often announce them and this year's known nominees include Clinton and former US president Jimmy Carter, along with Holbrooke for his efforts to end conflicts in the Balkans.

John Paul II was nominated as a symbol of peace in the world, and Annan for his efforts to avoid or stop many of the world's armed conflicts.

The Salvation Army, Doctors Without Borders, and NATO, for its role in European peacekeeping, have also been nominated.

The Norwegian news agency NTB said it had reason to believe that the late King Hussein of Jordan had also been nominated, but the peace prize cannot be awarded posthumously.

Other probable but unconfirmed candidates included Mexico's Bishop of San Cristobal de las Casas Samuel Ruiz Garcia, as a human-rights champion for his country's Chiapas Indians, and Chinese pro-democracy campaigners Wei Jingsheng and Wang Dan.



Richard Holbrooke (AP)



Pope John Paul II (AP)



President Bill Clinton (AP)

WORLD

in brief

Moussa discusses Lockerbie in Libya

CAIRO (AP) – Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa discussed the "latest developments" in the Lockerbie case with his Libyan counterpart Omar Muntasser in Tripoli yesterday, Egypt's official news agency reported. Their meeting took place amid reports that a deal is near on the hand-over of the two Libyans wanted for the 1988 blowing up of a Pan Am jet over Lockerbie, Scotland, that killed 270 people. They spoke about "the efforts exerted to reach a solution" and Moussa was expected to deliver a message on the issue from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, Egypt's Middle East News Agency said.

Paris police checking man for bin Laden links

PARIS (AP) – An Islamic militant thought to have links to Osama bin Laden, the suspect in the bombing of two US embassies, has been arrested in France, police said yesterday.

Said Laidoni was arrested at Paris' Gare du Nord train station on January 18 by members of France's internal security service, the DST. He was charged with criminal association with a terrorist enterprise, police and judicial sources said. However, the DST insisted that Laidoni "has no direct link" with the bomb attacks on the American embassies in Nairobi, Kenya and Arusha, Tanzania, which, the US claims were organized and financed by bin Laden.

Kasich announces plans for US candidacy

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) – Rep. John Kasich, Republican chairman of the House Budget Committee and a champion of tax cuts, yesterday laid the groundwork for a long shot presidential campaign based on returning "power to the people."

"We have to begin to run America from the bottom up," Kasich told a crowd of 1,300 cheering supporters in his adopted hometown. They attended a $100-a-person breakfast that followed a $1,000-a-person dinner Sunday night that attracted 300 people.

Kasich, a nine-term Republican congressman who has been pushing for a 10 percent, across-the-board tax cut, announced his plans to file papers with the Federal Election Commission to formally establish a presidential exploratory committee.

Hungary expels 26 neo-Nazis

BUDAPEST (Reuters) – Hungary yesterday expelled 26 neo-Nazis detained on Saturday night after a Budapest commemoration of a World War II event turned into a fight in which eight policemen were slightly injured, police said.

"Police arrested 30, about half of them Germans, the rest Austrians, Slovaks, Czechs, and Hungarians," Budapest police spokesman Mihaly Dezsi said. "They came to commemorate the 'Day of Pride,' remembering German and Hungarian soldiers who attempted to fight their way out of Soviet-encircled Budapest [in 1945." Dezsi said that eight of the neo-Nazis were also being prosecuted for attacking police officers.

At least 5 killed, 30 hurt in 2 blasts in Uganda

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) – Two separate bombs that exploded on Sunday killed at least five people and wounded another 30 in the Ugandan capital, newspapers said yesterday.

The government-owned *New Vision* said two bombs exploded Sunday evening in two bars in Kabalagala neighborhood, a popular drinking place for Ugandans and foreigners.

It said three people were killed instantly and one died while undergoing treatment at the hospital soon after the blasts. A fifth victim died yesterday at the state-owned Mulago Hospital, where 10 others remained hospitalized, said a hospital spokesman.

London subway drivers, guards strike

LONDON (AP) – Commuters faced delays getting to work yesterday, as train drivers and station guards staged a 48-hour strike against London's subway system.

The strike, which began Sunday evening, resulted in the closure of 25 stations during the early-morning rush hour, including some of central London's busiest stops, such as Leicester Square.

By mid-morning, however, all but nine stations had opened, and the level of services rose to 60 percent, London Underground officials said. The Rail Maritime and Transport Union called the strike, the latest in a series, after negotiations on job security collapsed last week.

Russian impeachment body to submit findings to parliament

MOSCOW (AP) – The parliamentary panel seeking to impeach Russian President Boris Yeltsin finished its work yesterday and will hand over its findings to parliament on Thursday, the commission's chairman said.

According to Vadim Filimonov, the Communist Party member who led the impeachment hearings, leaders of the parliament's lower house will receive the commission's findings on Thursday, and the entire body will probably begin reviewing the motion in two weeks, the Interfax news agency said.

The impeachment commission, set up last summer, says Yeltsin should be held accountable for instigating the 1991 Soviet collapse; using force against hardline lawmakers in 1993; launching the botched war in Chechnya; bringing the nation's once-proud military to ruin; and committing "genocide" against the Russian people.

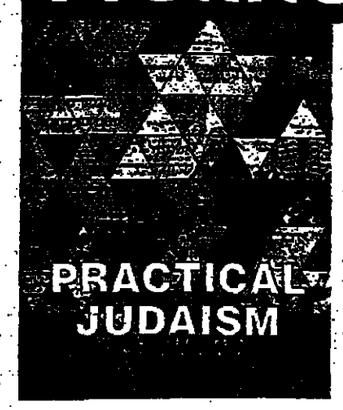
The motion to oust Yeltsin is unlikely to succeed. First, it must win a two-thirds majority in the lower house, which is considered unlikely. Then it must face the Constitutional and Supreme courts, and also win passage in the upper house of Parliament.

Meanwhile, Yeltsin stayed in his residence outside Moscow. His doctors have told him to stay out of the Kremlin because a flu epidemic has gripped the capital and they fear he may again fall ill.

Yeltsin has been recovering from a bleeding ulcer for the past month, first in the hospital and then at a sanitarium outside Moscow. On Thursday, he moved from the sanitarium to his Gorky-9 residence.

He is now preparing for meetings later this week with the leadership of the European Union and with German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, his spokesman said on Sunday.

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The real issue

The selection of Ronald Lauder as chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations earlier this month brought with it a degree of controversy, due to questions about his ties to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. Nobody argued that a personal friendship, or even political sympathies, with the prime minister should disqualify Lauder from heading the umbrella organization of American Jewish organizations, but charges that he had provided financial support for Netanyahu's 1996 prime ministerial campaign raised many eyebrows and caused concern.

In a grilling by nominating committee members, Lauder steadfastly denied having given any money to Netanyahu's campaign, paving the way for his election by the 55 members of the Presidents Conference, with no opposing votes, and only a few abstentions.

Since his election, Lauder has gone to great lengths to present himself as a moderate consensus-builder. In an interview that appeared in *Yediot Aharonot* last weekend, he stressed his friendship with the late Yitzhak Rabin and his longstanding support for the Oslo Accords. But the real issue is not Lauder, who will chair the Presidents Conference for the next year, and possibly longer. The real issue is the Presidents Conference itself, and whether it continues to live up to its lofty reputation.

Founded more than 40 years ago, the Presidents Conference for many years served as a meeting ground for the largest, most important membership organizations on the American Jewish scene. In periods of strained relations between Washington and Jerusalem, it served as a bridge, and helped to facilitate dialogue. In times of crisis, it acted as intermediary between Israel's leaders and the US administration. When Rabin came to power in 1992 and forged an excellent relationship with Bill Clinton, there was little need for an intermediary. Indeed, Rabin didn't hide the fact that he had little need for the umbrella organization.

The Presidents Conference has continued to serve as something of a speakers bureau, providing a forum for Israeli officials who want to speak to "American Jewry" in a convenient manner. By convening the umbrella organization's members, such speakers can get their message out, without needing to repeat themselves endlessly.

Today, with strained relations between Netanyahu and the Clinton administration, an argument could be made that the Presidents Conference should be resuming its traditional role of intermediary. If that is the goal, however, then Lauder – a staunch Republican who lacks close ties with the Clinton White House – is hardly an ideal choice as the group's leader at this time.

Lauder and the rest of the members of the Presidents Conference are due here Thursday, and they will meet with senior figures from across the political spectrum. But as the organization seeks to reclaim its role in Israel-Diaspora relations, it may be time for it to reexamine its own composition. Despite its name, many of the Presidents Conference's member groups can hardly be termed "major." Many single-issue groups, ranging from American Friends of Peace Now to The Zionist Organization of America, and a variety of small groups that play hardly any role in organized Jewish life in the US – including CAMERA and the Workmen's Circle – have the same vote as Hadassah, which has more than 300,000 members, the ADL, the local community relations committees, and the Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox synagogue groups. Other groups, including the United Jewish Appeal, are solely fundraising organizations that don't have membership, raising the question of just who they represent at the Presidents Conference.

As long as just about any group can get a seat around the table, the Presidents Conference runs the risk of being little more than a meeting place for the exchange of ideas. While little consensus can be reached when the ZOA and the Friends of Peace Now are gathered together, the real problem is not their lack of agreement. At issue is the fact that these and many other organizations have no business being part of any conference that has the words "Major American Jewish Organizations" in its name.

If the "true" majors – Hadassah, ADL, the synagogue groups, and a few others – want to preserve the umbrella organization's relevance, they should move to redefine who can join. If the Presidents Conference is comprised of the democratically elected leaders of large membership organizations, then it will have a right to speak with some authority as the mouthpiece of organized American Jewry. If, however, it continues to welcome just about every group that wants to join – indeed, the only significant US Jewish organization that does not belong (by its own choice) is the Simon Wiesenthal Center – it seems destined to serve as a speakers' bureau, with no real ability to speak for the people it was established to represent.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

VIOLENCE AND THE ALTERNATIVE

Sir, – At a recent court hearing, it was announced that all charges against CPT (Christian Peacemaker Teams) members living in Hebron have been dropped. Perhaps this is a good opportunity to speak up for the idea of nonviolence, and for those people who are committed to it.

So many tragedies have taken place here, and naturally, when the gunmen and the bombers do strike, news of their atrocities hits the headlines. But what of those who are determined to press for the alternative? There are many at work in this land who promote the use of peaceful means – surely we should be aware of their activities too?

The men and women of CPT play a key role in pointing out the path of peace. Their presence in Hebron is a witness to the merit of the nonviolent way, and shows to both Jew and Palestinian that there is an alternative to ongoing hostility.

In the wake of recent activity by "Concerned Christians" – the Denver-based cult – it seems important to remind ourselves that there are Christian groups here who are truly "concerned." People like those at CPT, who are on the side of life and peace for all. With the right perspective, both communities should be able to appreciate the CPT folks as being "on the side of the angels."

PATRICK BEALEY

Jerusalem.

I BLAME EGGED

Sir, – After reading about the murder of a woman by an Egged bus driver (and I use the word "murder" in all sincerity), I can only blame the bus company.

In July of last year, I was forced off the road next to the Carmel Hotel in Netanya, by an Egged bus driver, who was annoyed that I was not going fast enough for him. I took down his number, phoned Egged immediately and was told to put details of the incident in writing. This was duly faxed – no reply was received. I was then told to submit another letter, which I handed in personally at the Netanya office on a Friday morning.

I'm assuming the man at the reception destroyed the letter, after I told him its contents. I then contacted Egged again and was told by the manager that he'd never received any correspondence from me. He assured me that if I faxed details again, it would be dealt with.

Five months later, I am still awaiting a reply.

Obviously, people's lives mean nothing to Egged or its drivers. Perhaps someone from the company will see this letter and decide to do something about my complaint and, I'm sure, the complaints of many other people which may have also been totally disregarded.

DIANE GREEN

Netanya.

CORRECT SPELLING

Sir, – Your report "Rabbi: If Reform sign oath of allegiance, we'll sit with them" (January 29), was inaccurate. It did not mention that meeting of the Kiryat Tivon religious council was a continuation of a meeting held the week before.

Moreover, you misspelled my name and as the adage says, "Say anything you want about me, but spell my name correctly."

I was the one who warned the council that the non-election of a council chairman and a treasurer would not allow the council to function, since the previous chairman and treasurer could not legally carry out the functions as the new council had met.

RABBI KALIL S. ROSENBERG

Kiryat Tivon.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On February 16, 1934, *The Palestine Post* reported that Italy had for the first time officially decided to participate in the Tel Aviv Levant Fair, a clear indication of her growing interest in this country's development and trade.

50 years ago: On February 16, 1949, *The Palestine Post* reported that the Constituent Assembly had settled down to the main issue of the current session: the adoption of a "small constitution" laying down procedures for the formation of a government. In his first Arabic speech Amin Jarjura, Nazareth Democrat, appealed for policies of equality and justice as laid down in Israel's Declaration of Independence.

Alexander Zvielli

Think again

NAOMI RAGEN

So, you think you've won, do you – all of you who organized and participated in that great show of yeshiva power this past Sunday in Jerusalem? What then, exactly, is your victory?

If you think your show of numbers cowed our judges and our court system, we can only pray that isn't the case. I use the term "pray" particularly, and not a more secular term, because Israel's civil court system is the last refuge for so many religious people fleeing the injustices of the rabbinical courts.

Sunday's haredi 'prayer rally' was the most stupendous, well-attended and mind-boggling desecration of God's name in recent memory

I can't tell you how many unfortunate women – some of them haredi, the former wives of rabbis – have tried desperately to get their divorce cases moved from the rabbinical courts to the civil courts, so that they might have a chance of achieving some justice in property settlements and child-custody issues, for it is well known that the rabbinical courts favor men.

If you think that you've achieved justification for your point of view because so many came out to support it, then think again. We who have lived through the 20th century know better than to believe that truth and right belong to large crowds.

After all, millions of Germans were dead wrong about everything, weren't they?

If you think your dancing and singing and prayer warmed our hearts, think again. When Moses came down from the mountain, he found the people dancing and singing also, didn't he?

He, too, was unimpressed. He broke the Tablets of Law because the people, with their disgraceful enthusiasm for the wrong idea, didn't deserve the beautiful laws God had prepared for them, laws meant to ennoble and enrich them, to set them above and apart from the lawless pagans.

And if you think you "sure showed those secular Jews" just who's in charge, then think again.

True, you bused in a quarter-million people and the opposing side only had 50,000. But most of us realize that unlike your participants, those on the opposing side couldn't really afford to take time off to sing and dance in Jerusalem on a sunny afternoon.

They were too busy tilling the fields so you'll have food to eat, patrolling the borders, so you can sleep in your beds safely at night. They were too busy earning a living to help pay for your yeshivot, and your share of city taxes, and your subsidized housing, and subsidized school buses, and subsidized food stores.

ALL day long, I listened to one member after the next of the haredi community explain what the demonstration, or "prayer vigil" was all about.

Again and again I heard the following: "We want the courts, the judges to respect us. We deserve respect."

Just as haredim have long disconnected the act of receiving money from actually going out and earning it, so they have now disconnected receiving respect from actually going out and earning it.

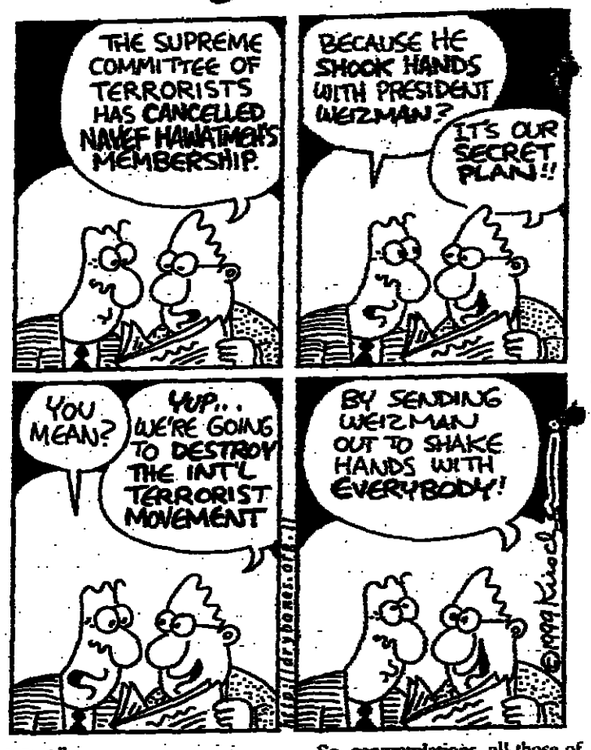
Showing no respect for the law, or for judges or even for Halacha – which states clearly that a judge must not "respect" any one side more than another when reaching a fair and even-handed judgement – they wish, nevertheless, to be respected for their point of view.

Both money and respect, it seems, can be yours for the taking if you make enough noise.

So, congratulations, all those of you who organized and participated in what is being called the largest demonstration in Israel's history. You managed to stage the most stupendous, well-attended and mind-boggling desecration of God's name in recent memory.

If you can stop patting yourselves on the back long enough to look into the mirror, perhaps you'll see what those of us who were watching you saw: a docile, manipulated crowd of sheep led by power-hungry, money-grubbing wolves in saints' clothing, who are leading you all straight off the cliff.

Dry Bones



It's for all of us

EVELYN GORDON

The long-standing haredi war against the Supreme Court, particularly in its capacity as the High Court of Justice, took two unfortunate turns last week.

The first was that, for the first time, some haredi leaders crossed the boundaries of legitimate speech. Since for years, even the mildest haredi statements against the court have been greeted with screams of "incitement!" from the liberal establishment, it is perhaps hard to blame the haredim for concluding that restraint doesn't pay.

Nevertheless, against the background of the biblical injunction to slay every Amalekite, man, woman and child, calling Supreme Court President Aharon Barak "the enemy of the Jews" using the Hebrew phrase that refers to Haman the Amalekite in the Book of Esther – is going beyond the pale.

The second unfortunate turn was that for the first time, the haredim cast their battle against the court as an exclusively religious issue.

In the past, the haredim have correctly pointed out that the court's judicial activism has wide-ranging implications for democracy, which go far beyond its impact on church-state issues. Last week, however, haredi leaders dropped all mention of this problem, choosing to focus solely on what they consider the court's anti-Orthodox bent.

Again, this is perhaps an unsurprising response to the fact that even those who share their concern about the court's growing power have chosen to abandon the battle, rather than fight on the same side with the haredim.

Nevertheless, both of these developments are unfortunate, because they damage the battle the haredim have, for the past few years, been fighting on behalf of all of us.

What the haredim appear to have forgotten is that whether or not Aharon Barak "hates religion," as they claim, is of secondary importance. The Supreme Court could be occupied by the worst antisemites since Hitler with little impact on its rulings, were it not for the dangerous judicial philosophy it – and Barak first and foremost – has adopted.

Until the general public wakes up to the dangers posed by judicial activism, the haredim will continue to fight this battle alone

The belief that the court has the right and duty to determine whether government actions are not merely legal but reasonable, coupled with the belief that it has the right to weigh government actions against a self-declared "constitution" comprised of Basic Laws adopted by a mere quarter of the Knesset – these are the real roots of the evil. Because it is only these beliefs that enable the justices to ascribe the force of law to their opinions on any issue – religious and non-religious alike.

TAKE, for instance, one recent ruling that had the religious up in arms: the decision that the present system of draft deferments for yeshiva students was illegal.

The court did not cite any law contradicted by these deferments. On the contrary: the law explicitly authorizes the defense minister to issue such deferments. What made the system illegal, the court said, was that it considered the minister's use of his authority to be unreasonable.

Many Israelis might agree with the court on this particular issue. However, that does not change the fact that it is not the court's job to decide whether government decisions are reasonable. That is the job of the electorate. The court's job is only to decide whether a given decision violates the law – and had it stuck to this job, the haredim would have nothing to complain about.

On one level, the haredi complaints about the court's "anti-religious" character are understandable. It is true that a sizable number of the court's most egregious substitutions of the justices' opinion for law have been on church-state issues.

However, this is not because the court has been exercising restraint in other areas. It has thrust its opinions into every walk of public life – from deciding it was unreasonable to award the Israel Prize to journalist Shmuel Shnitzer, to deciding it was unreasonable for Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to fire his civil service commissioner.

What distinguishes these decisions from those on religious issues is not the reasoning behind them, but merely the fact that, for the most part, they affected far fewer people – and therefore did not cause an outcry.

So fair to their credit, the haredim have fought their battle strictly through democratic means – including Sunday's demonstration. Nothing could be more absurd than the oft-heard charge in recent days that it is undemocratic to demonstrate against the Supreme Court. In the US, there have been countless demonstrations against Supreme Court decisions on issues such as abortion, yet that country seems to have survived as a democracy. Indeed, peaceful demonstrations are one of the quintessential methods by which the people try to make their voices heard in a democratic regime.

Yet until the general public wakes up to the dangers posed by judicial activism, the haredim will continue to fight this battle alone.

And it is therefore to be hoped that they return to their previous focus: that the court's behavior is a danger not merely to the haredi lifestyle, but to democracy. Because, whether they want the job or not, the haredim are fighting on behalf of all of us – for the right to let our elected representatives, rather than an unelected court, make the decisions that govern our lives.

Consider contrariness

URI DROMI

Once again, we have failed to understand the Arabs.

This time it was the turn of Arab affairs experts in both military intelligence and the Foreign Ministry, who predicted that with the passing of King Hussein, his brother Prince Hassan would take over. Then Hussein, in a burst of emotion, dismissed his brother and named his son Abdullah in his stead.

Such miscalculations are to be expected: it is a professional risk one has to take into account when dealing with autocratic leaders. But this is hardly the first time such errors have been made.

Little has been said about how, in early 1967, then OC Intelligence Branch, Maj.-Gen. Aharon Yariv, concluded that there would be no war between Israel and Egypt. His assessment was based on seemingly indisputable intelligence information: Egyptian president Gamel Abdel Nasser, in a closed meeting, had explained to Arab leaders why Egypt was not prepared to go to war.

Nevertheless, the Six Day War broke out only a few months later. No one could have imagined that Nasser would "go crazy," kick the UN peacekeeping forces out of the Gaza Strip, close vital navigation routes to Israel, and drag the whole Middle East into a violent crisis.

Trying to read the minds of absolute rulers is an awesome task indeed, but even in trying to follow basic trends and developments in the Arab world, the Israeli record is poor.

Don't take our experts' word on Lebanon as gospel. They've been wrong before

Despite numerous signals to the contrary, on the eve of the Yom Kippur War, we did not believe that the Arabs would attack; in 1976 we initiated Palestinian municipal elections in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, hoping to promote moderate Palestinian leaders; instead, we got a slew of PLO supporters.

When Egyptian president Anwar Sadat launched his peace initiative in 1977, chief of General Staff Mordechai Gur warned it could be a trap; in Lebanon in 1982, we fooled ourselves into believing that our tanks could impose a pro-Israeli Christian regime, in a country shifting towards the Shi'ites; and five years later we failed to foresee the intifada, and when it erupted, we did not grasp its significance.

THERE was once an old officer in French intelligence, a man who served throughout the first 50 years of this century, who used to present an annual report, predicting that there would not be a world war that year. At his goodbye party, when he finally retired, his superior praised him, saying that in all his long and distinguished career, the officer had only made two mistakes!

Trying to see through the fog is a risky endeavor. Intelligence officers and experts on Arab affairs, who try to decipher an enigmatic and elusive reality sometimes make serious mistakes. We have every right, therefore, to question their assessments and even challenge them.

For instance, the accepted view vis-a-vis our deployment in southern Lebanon is that we should not withdraw to the international border, because the Hizbullah would then immediately attack the North.

But one can argue no less reasonably that by withdrawing from Lebanon we will pull the rug out from under the feet of Hizbullah, and that the organization, which has a political agenda, would then be dragged into the internal Lebanese quagmire.

The unfinished business it has with Amal, the mainstream Shi'ite movement, and with others would keep its hands full. Moreover, once the common enemy is gone, many in Lebanon would change their attitude towards Hizbullah's provocation of Israel's wrath.

Maybe we should give this option serious thought – precisely because experts on Arab affairs reject it.

The writer is a reserve colonel in the IAF and a former director of the Government Press Office.

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا عن الأعلى

A prince with personality

King Abdullah II gets high marks for being affable and 'never pulling rank,' his former instructors at a California military institute tell **Sue Fishkoff**

Jordan's newly crowned King Abdullah II is "a kind and gentle man" who listens carefully to what others have to say before offering his own opinion and considers the long-range effects of any decisions he makes.

Those are the impressions he made on his former instructors at a military institute in Monterey, California, where the late King Hussein's eldest son spent a month last summer participating in an international defense management course.

Abdullah was one of 50 or so high-ranking military officers and civilian officials enrolled in a four-week course last summer at the Defense Management Resources Institute (DMRI) run by the US Department of Defense on the campus of the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) in this California coastal town, 200 km. south of San Francisco.

The NPS, which offers postgraduate degrees in military subjects, counts 253 foreign students, including Israelis, among its current enrollment of around 1,400. The DMRI, which employs instructors from the NPS, also offers short, non-degree courses in systems analysis-based resources management for military and defense personnel.

The course Abdullah took is called the Senior International Defense Management Course, and it is offered once a year. It is designed specifically for the most senior-ranking military and defense personnel of various countries, including generals, admirals and heads of government ministries.

The course involves classroom lectures, followed by small-group discussions, where participants apply the lessons learned to real-life and potential situations in their home countries.

Assistant Professor Jim Felli, who teaches decision science and led a discussion group that included Abdullah last summer, says he "found him to be intelligent and thoughtful and very respectful."



Abdullah, with arms crossed, listens good-humoredly to his brother Hamzeh during a military parade in Jordan last year. (AP)

Emphasizing that his comments reflect only his personal feelings and not any academic evaluation of Jordan's new king, Felli adds: "He is very poised, very capable and very confident. He is concerned with the 'big picture' – not only with the here and now, but with the implications of decisions made in the here and now."

Felli points out that the course emphasizes the importance of "asking the right questions" in military and defense scenarios.

"My personal belief is that he appreciated that, and really tried to ask the right questions during the course," Felli says. "I was very happy to have him in my discussion group."

ASSOCIATE Professor Natalie Webb, who ran another discussion group in which Abdullah participated, says that one thing that impressed her about the new king was that he never "pulled rank" in class, never made others feel that his royal status gave him special privileges.

"He was such a kind, gentle, thoughtful person," Webb recalls. "We'd sit in the group, and he was the only one of royal rank that I know of there. He'd listen to what everybody had to say, and then he'd speak his part. He never expected people to treat him differently than anyone else. He's the kind of person who listens to others' opinions, rather than exerting his own opinion first."

When students wrote their nametags to use in class, for example, Jordan's future king wrote, quite simply, "Abdullah."

"So we all called him Abdullah," Webb says.

Actually, she adds, that's not unusual in DMRI classes. While institute courses are filled with senior military officers and their civilian counterparts from more than four dozen countries around the world, instructors and other students are often unaware of any royal titles that may go along with the military rank.

Webb says that recent DMRI students include the current or former defense ministers of Honduras, the Philippines, Romania and Slovakia; a chair of NATO's military committee; and the chief and deputy chief of staff of the Royal Jordanian Air Force.

"We take rank out of it here," she says.

Whether any other former DMRI students have gone on to become heads of state, Felli is unsure.

"We don't always know where our participants go when they leave us," he notes.

And another thing about the Oxford-educated King Abdullah, Webb adds: "His English is beautiful."

Abdullah's wife, Princess Rania, joined him with their children for the final two weeks of the course, although she did not take part in classroom studies.

Palestinian by birth, the princess moved to Jordan during the Gulf War. Of that union, Webb told a local Monterey newspaper, "[Abdullah] said the only good thing that came out of the Kuwaiti conflict was his wife."

Helping the haredim *out*

Not Page One



Sam Orbaum

Mendel began hearing his own voices when he was 17. A haredi of the extremist Lithuanian persuasion, he wondered if God existed.

He had to know, and so one day, he snuck into the basement of his yeshiva with a box of matches. It was Shabbat. He lit one, then a few more. When the yeshiva did not fall down upon his head, he was almost sure.

Soon after, he bought a cheese sandwich. Then, he went to another store and bought some meat. He ate them together. He waited. He didn't die. And that's how he knew there was no God.

At the age of 22, Mendel, a standout student, told his father he did not want to continue studying in yeshiva. On the spot, he was thrown out of his home and into the street, in the middle of the night.

Now, two years later, Mendel is, like his father, an extremist – but ultra-secular, profoundly anti-Orthodox. He lives with the Kfir family (the names have been changed) in the Sharon area.

Mendel fled into the arms of an organization, Hillel, that assists haredim leaving the fold.

"It must be stressed, we are not anti-haredi," says Anat Nevo, a Jerusalemite active in Hillel. "We're not 'missionaries,' as the haredim call us. We don't actively encourage them to leave. These people need help, a lot of help, and we fill that need." Knowing how harrowing and tortuous the secularization process is, "it would not be moral for us to persuade them."

Hillel helps only those determined enough to cope; their motivation must be ideological, their conviction must be strong.

Children up to the age of 18 – some are even married – occasionally turn to Hillel, which refers them to the municipality's channels but still provides background services, such as foster families.

"The youngest we helped was a 13-year-old. Two months after his bar mitzva, he called us – on Yom Kippur – and said, 'Everyone's in shul. I'm at home, eating, and talking on the phone.'"

The challenges they face are phenomenal. Even adults have to learn absolutely everything, and worse, unlearn everything they know. "They have a different set of truths. For instance hormones, basic anatomy, things that for us are normal, explainable; for haredim, they are damnable," and explained away with untruths.

"The boys have no secular education, not even basic math. Girls do study a bit more, but usually at a very low standard." They lack even minimal cultural background; they have zero knowledge, useless education, no money, no means to earn, they are as prepared for society as a four-year-old. "The advantage is that they are very intelligent, curious, very strong."

One who could not benefit from this infrastructure was Shai Horovitz. He founded Hillel eight years ago, when he left the haredi fold at the age of 17. Two years later, struggling economically and unable to get the services Hillel now provides, he returned to his former life.

MENDEL has lived with David and Batya Kfir for the past eight months.

"When he came to us he was very, very suspicious about everything," David relates. "He asked, 'What are you profiting from this?' Every time there's a disagreement he says, 'You want me to leave?' He doesn't understand it's permissible to argue.

"What, you think when my children and I disagree, it means they have to leave home? Well yes, that's what he thought."

David has done a lot to temper Mendel's hot hostility. "His first Friday with us, I told him to call his parents and wish them "Shabbat shalom." He said he wasn't speaking to them anymore, but I insisted. At the beginning, they behaved terribly when he called. They shouted at him. They demanded to know the *hechsher* [kashrut supervision] in our house. After some time, he snapped at them: 'Have you ever asked if I even have food to eat? If I have a bed to sleep in? All you care about is the *hechsher*?! I eat pork, because that's all there is.' And he hung up. Still, he calls every week.

"He was invited to the wedding of a friend from his yeshiva days, and he wanted to make a point by dressing in sneakers, jeans and a T-shirt. I said to him, Mendel, this is not how you dress for a wedding. He said 'I want them to see me as I am.' I insisted he show respect, that he dress properly and even put on a kippa – which is exactly what I would do. To make his point, it was enough that he went without *tzitzit* or *peyot*." Mendel's ignorance, and naivete, are shocking, and quaint.

"He knows that every town has a Herzl Street, but he doesn't know why. He's never heard of Herzl. Never heard of the Yom Kippur War, not a thing.

"One day he said, 'David, I need advice. I was on the bus, a young female soldier got on, and even though the bus was empty, she sat next to me. What should I have understood from this?' Mendel is very good-looking, you see.

"I said maybe she felt an attraction; did you speak to her? 'No, how do you speak to a woman?' I said, 'Talk about the weather, the bus driver, anything; ask where she's going.' And he said, 'Just like that, to speak without anything to say?'"

Sex is, in fact, the most vexing challenge in Mendel's school of life. "We really don't have answers for him," says David. "He'll learn, but probably the hard way."

David, too, has been learning about life, and what Mendel reveals about haredi ways is shocking.

"The haredim tell their children about the worst things: rape and murder and crime. Mendel understood that the secular world is full of [vipers]. Kibbutzim are depicted as whorehouses where children don't even know who their parents are.

"Mendel says that the [propaganda] they get is worse than what Hamas children get." According to Anat Nevo, all newly-former haredim have the same startling request: a secular *Shulhan Aruch*. Mendel did too. David recalls that "after a couple of weeks, he asked us for 'the book of rules' so he could learn conventional manners."

Mendel assumed there was a universal guidebook detailing acceptable secular behavior. With a lot of help, he has come to understand that only his senses can teach him this.

Hillel's hot-line numbers operate 6-10 p.m.: (02) 622-1359 on Sun., Tues., Wed.; and (03) 528-4494 on Mon. and Thurs.

Two years later, Mendel is still an extremist – an ultra-secular one

Germany as a haven for fleeing Jews

As antisemitism in the CIS increases and choices for emigration become greater, many Jews would rather remain on the same continent, **Carol Williams** writes

Despite occasional outbreaks of right-wing extremism and much public anguish about how to preserve the memory of the Holocaust, Germany now has the fastest-growing Jewish population outside Israel.

However, the growing tide of Jewish immigration to that country is less a tribute to German social harmony than a troubling sign that antisemitism is on the rise elsewhere.

More than 100,000 Jews from the former Soviet Union have joined Germany's about 30,000 Jews since 1990, and authorities with the Cologne-based Federal Administrative Office note that the pace has picked up in recent months as Russia's economic crisis rekindles ancient Slavic resentment.

After last summer's collapse of the ruble, nationalists and Communists in the Russian Parliament sought to blame Jews for the country's downfall, and open threats of new pogroms have gained popular appeal in the poisoned atmosphere of poverty and despair.

"There's no better barometer of the health of Russian society than the health of its Jewish community," David Harris, executive director of the American Jewish Committee, observed during a visit to Berlin last week. "There is good reason [for Jews] to worry in Russia today."

The influx to Germany pales in comparison with the hundreds of thousands of former Soviet Jews who have settled in Israel, but German and Jewish social workers see an increasing tendency among the eastern Europeans to stay on the same continent as their homeland.

"My family is still all in Ukraine, and it's easier for me to visit them from here than it would be if I were living in Israel," said Felix Krasny, a 46-year-old engineer who becomes eligible for citizenship in a few months when he marks seven years of German residence.

Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's government recently put forward a parliamentary proposal radically to change German citizenship requirements, allowing immigrants to retain their old passports when they acquire German ones. The current law forces applicants to renounce their original citizenship, which for Russians means confronting a complicated and ineffectual bureaucracy when they want to return for a visit.

JEWS fleeing the former Communist world are coming to Germany in greater numbers now because they have a choice, said Irene Runge, director of the Jewish Cultural Association here.

"In the beginning, when they were first able to emigrate, there was only Israel to go to and they didn't care anyway. A foreign country was a foreign country, as long as it was in the West," said Runge, whose organization aids Russian-speaking newcomers.

"Now everyone compares what is available before they decide where to emigrate: What kind of social welfare system is there? How does unemployment insurance work? What are the schools like for my kids?"

Germany is often more attractive than Israel for those former Soviet Jews who are not very religious and for those who are married to non-Jews, Runge said.

With more than 1.6 million former Soviets of German descent having been made citizens during the past decade by virtue of the current citizenship law, which defines who is entitled to a passport according to blood lineage rather than birthplace, Jews from the former Soviet Union find a familiar cultural environment in Germany. Russian-language newspapers and television broadcasts are available in many major cities, and Russian is spoken in some businesses.

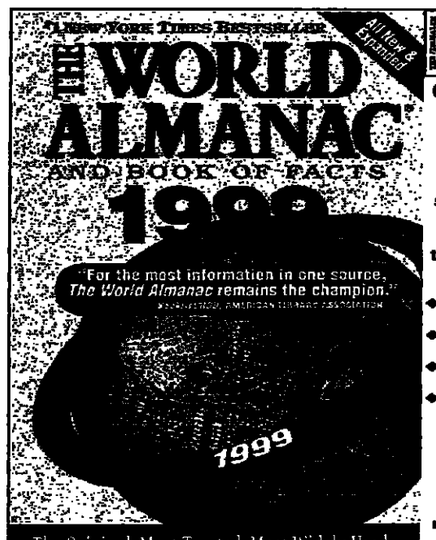
Yet most immigrants from the former Soviet Union say they would prefer to lead a normal life in the land of their birth.

"It's much easier to stay where you were born and know the language and the culture. Only in the most extreme situation do you want to pull up stakes and move to a foreign country," said Igor Chalmiev, an immigrant who has co-authored a guidebook for Russian-speaking Jews settling in the state of Brandenburg, which surrounds Berlin.

"To compel someone to emigrate, it has to be a life-threatening situation, and I fear that is what is developing in Russia today," Chalmiev said. "If the current political climate continues, we will see a flood of Russian immigrants here."

(Los Angeles Times)

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Who needs Viagra?

Dear Ruthie,

My wife and I, both in our seventies, still feel young and wish to enjoy an active sex life. But medical problems prevent me from taking drugs such as Viagra. What advice can you give us?

In a Slump Somewhere in Israel

Dear Ruthie



Ruthie Blum

Dear In a Slump,

If medical problems prevent you from taking erection-inducing drugs, it is likely that medical problems are responsible for your bedroom difficulties. If so, you should consult with a doctor.

In the meantime, you should consider whether your desire to "enjoy an active sex life" can't be achieved in other ways. You should also consider the possibility that, with all the press given to miraculous groin enhancers, you may be caught up in an idea of what you are *supposed* to be doing, rather than nurturing an independent urge (sexual or otherwise).

Judging from the amount of mail I receive on this subject, I have come to the conclusion that Viagra is causing a lot of unnecessary anxiety – among both men and their partners. Since anxiety is known to be one of the great sex-drive killers, this is sadly ironic.

The emergence of wonder drugs which cause a physiological response completely independent of the presence of a sexual partner is, well, no "wonder." As in the case of the diet pill – another "miracle" for people suffering from the human condition – the erection pill can get you just so far. The rest is up to you, so to speak.

Do not lose sight of the fact that you and your wife can be loving, romantic, and even passionate without chemical intervention – whatever the state of your health. It all depends, of course, on whether you do both feel warmly toward one another. If you don't, no amount of blood pumping will guarantee a gratifying, satisfying sex-life.

Dear Ruthie,

My wife is allergic to most flowers and perfume; she is always on a diet, so she doesn't want chocolates in the house; she wears no jewelry; she has no hobbies; and she is extremely particular about her clothes. This is why I feel in a terrible bind whenever her birthday draws near. Though she says I don't have to buy her anything, I know that in the past she was hurt when I believed her.

What am I to do? I have even offered to take her shopping so she can select something, but she always shrugs this suggestion off. Can you help me, and soon? Her birthday is in under two weeks, and already I'm feeling a migraine coming on.

Ungifted Husband Somewhere in Israel

Dear Ungifted,

Listen carefully to any "hints" your wife may drop. These need not be intentional hints aimed at you as a gift-giver, yet they could give you *an idea of what purchase might* be on your wife's mind. It could be something for the house – such as a new couch – or something she's interested in, such as a book she's been meaning to read. Maybe a new *computer, for example.*

If that doesn't work, think of memberships or subscriptions (e.g. to a health club, the theater, a magazine, etc).

Another possibility is a vacation. Depending on your financial situation, you could plan a weekend (or longer) excursion somewhere in the country or abroad. You could also give your wife a ticket to visit friends or family she doesn't see regularly.

One last idea is a surprise party. This is risky, depending on the type of person your wife is, and on whether she likes parties... or surprises.

For the migraine – see a doctor.

Letters should be addressed to: 'Dear Ruthie,' POB 81, Jerusalem 91000. For e-mail: ruthie@jpost.co.il ('Dear Ruthie' also appears in* In Jerusalem *and in* City Lights *on Fridays.

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Guarding an important body

To protect an executive you must become part samurai, part servant, as Peter Perl discovers firsthand



Executive Protection Institute founder Richard Kobetz is disarmed by assistant Mary Huntsberry. For some, a high-class bodyguard is just another status symbol. (Photos: The Washington Post)



A big part of a bodyguard's mission is to escort the executive into or out of a car in a discreet, secure manner.

It is well past midnight in the cold blackness of the Blue Ridge Mountains, and we are preparing for a possible assault.

Nobody knows when or where the attack will come, only that it is virtually inevitable sometime within the next 18 hours.

We are a 12-person protective unit assigned to the isolated estate of a wealthy executive. Our command post is a wood-paneled room with a chalkboard in the servants' quarters. Most of us are slumped on the floor in exhaustion, having slept only four or five hours a night for the past week. Our team leader, Mike Norman, a 31-year-old, muscular ex-Marine, is standing in front of us, deciding who will sleep and who will guard the grounds.

"I'll stand the watch here," Mike says in a deep, take-charge voice, meaning he will man the post alone until daybreak.

"We'll have a second patrol at the main house on two-hour shifts... and wake up at zero five forty-five."

I am a mere assistant team leader, but I decide to speak up: "Mike, I don't know if it's a great idea for you to stay up the whole night. We're gonna need you to run things in the morning." I look around me for support from the team: all I get are bleary-eyed stares.

Mike fixes me in his sights. With 12 years in the military, he is not accustomed to questions from the ranks. "I know my limits," he says firmly. "I'll be all right." Several people start talking at once. We all want sleep, desperately need it if we are going to complete our mission.

Somebody suggests shorter shifts, somebody says longer, somebody else questions how many guards we really need, and whether any of us will be able, without sleep, to drive at 6 a.m. when we will have to hit the road. Tempers are frayed and voices begin to rise. Several people just grunt their displeasure.

"Look! Let's get the job done!" shouts Joe Kolb, a two-meter-high former Marine from Gaithersburg, Md., stalking across the room toward the door. "I'll stand watch!"

"Uh-uh," says William Garrett, a former nightclub bouncer from Chicago, shaking his head and raising his palms toward Joe. "I'll do it."

William looks dead on his feet and angry with fatigue. I am wondering who will be able to break up the fight if William and Big Joe get into it.

I LOOK around at our unusual squad: three ex-Marines; four security officials from Fortune 500 companies; a burly chauffeur from New Jersey; a huge armored-car driver from Chicago; a British prison guard who used to work undercover in Northern Ireland; a French emergency-room physician – and me.

I'm cold. I'm dead tired. And I've got some fresh bruises. I know that I need sleep quickly to be functional in the morning – or I might screw up the mission for everybody. I'm also wondering, what the hell am I doing here?

What we are all doing here is completing our marathon, sleep-deprived training to become bodyguards. Not just ordinary bodyguards, those stereotypical goons in ill-fitting suits. We are learning how to become high-class corporate bodyguards.

We are getting a taste of everything from etiquette to explosives – firing shotguns, crashing cars and learning how to search a limousine for a hidden car bomb. But we are spending as much time discussing how to dress, how and when to make conversation, to be discreet, respectful and resourceful, and, above all, how to always be of service to our executive.

We are being schooled in the art of "executive protection" at the Executive Protection Institute in Berryville, Va.

My 39 classmates – 38 men and one woman – have paid $3,000 each for seven days of intensive instruction and real-life simulation under the guidance of retired Secret Service, FBI, police and military officials, along with experts in evasive driving, corporate security, international travel and table manners.

THE growth of the American culture of celebrity and the globalization of business have fueled an increase in the demand for more sophisticated forms of personal protection. When Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates was hit in the face with a cream pie last February in Brussels, it was a bizarre reminder that even the richest man in the world can be surprisingly vulnerable.

Fear of stalkers, kidnappers, paparazzi or assassins is a constant *for many people in the public eye.* Yet many VIPs who want protection also refuse to give up their visibility and mobility. Like politicians and government officials, they want security that is effective but not excessive.

That's where Richard Kobetz comes in. Kobetz is a former Chicago police commander who was once assigned to the protection detail of the late Mayor Richard Daley. The legendary politician forcefully told his security people to keep their distance and "never put your hands on a voter unless you have an absolute need to protect me."

Kobetz founded the Executive Protection Institute in 1978 after serving as assistant director of the International Association of Chiefs of Police in Washington, where he became a specialist in terrorism and hostage negotiations.

"Ours is a different approach than the gorilla-in-a-suit, the old image of the bodyguard," Kobetz says. "We brought in the idea of protocol, etiquette, manners and, probably most importantly, advance work to avoid confrontations in the first place."

KOBETZ'S is one of only a handful of companies that provide such training. But interest in the field is growing, according to the American Society for Industrial Security, whose 30,000 members make it the largest organization of security professionals. The increase in international travel by executives and the downsizing of major corporations are key factors in fueling fear, Kobetz says.

"Society is stretching out to extremes, more and more, of the 'haves' and the 'have-nots.' And the have-nots see TV and movies and magazines, and they have the feeling that they should have all that. And those who DO have all that go into the position of protecting what they have."

For some CEOs, however, executive protection is not really about protection at all. A high-class bodyguard is just another status symbol.

Security professionals are attending to learn the finer points of protecting their executives, as are bodyguards working for Kissinger and for Microsoft cofounder Paul Allen. There are also two Swedish bodyguards, two Canadian intelligence officers, and law-enforcement officers from Michigan, Ohio and New Mexico.

We are getting a taste of everything from etiquette to explosives, firing shotguns to crashing cars

In addition, we have a dozen guys who, like William Garrett, are looking for a career change.

Then there's Mike Norman. Only three months out of the Marines, he has been locked in a dead-end job, assembling air conditioners in Florida. His goal is to work for the Secret Service or the FBI someday.

The other hopefuls in our class include a professional wrestler, an unemployed chef, a park ranger, a real-estate agent from Belgium, and a couple of former Army Special Forces operatives who are antisocial enough to scare off even the Marines.

During the get-acquainted cocktail hour, the conversations range from guns to cars to deep-sea diving to skydiving to getting shot up in Vietnam, gunned down in Chicago, and blown up in the Persian Gulf. Kobetz addresses us at the end of it, saying the coming week's training will put us in some very unusual and difficult situations. We'll be going through 100 hours of training over the next seven days, we are told, and learning how to cater to the needs of our "principal," while mastering the dicta laid down by Sun Tzu, the ancient Chinese military strategist: "True excellence is to plan secretly, to move surreptitiously, to foil the enemy's intentions and balk his schemes, so that at last, the day may be won without shedding a drop of blood."

To me, it seems like an oddly demanding combination: part ninja, part butler, part samurai, part servant.

SHOOTING guns is big fun. Like some kind of macho fantasy camp. But we learn that guns actually play no role in the vast majority of executive-protection assignments. Bodyguards get no special exemption from most state gun laws that prohibit carrying concealed weapons. Firearms can't be carried on airplanes and in most foreign countries. And even in those rare instances when use of guns may be permitted, the weapons can only be used in the most extreme circumstances.

"When the defecation hits the oscillator," Gene Ferrara, a former Cincinnati cop, warns us, "you are responsible."

Guns can't stop surprise attacks at close range, our instructor, Tom Luddy, a retired Secret Service agent, reminds us. Would-be assassins Arthur Bremer and John Hinckley, for example, each got off at least three shots before Secret Service agents could react. At 20 feet or less, there's no time to draw a gun, so the best way to save lives is to go for the assailant's weapon and knock it aside while getting your principal downrange, out of danger – as Luddy's former colleagues did when they shoved the wounded Ronald Reagan onto the floor of his limousine in the first seconds of the Hinckley attack.

"When all is said and done," Ferrara tells us that night, "we are bullet catchers."

He reminds us of our bullet-catching role right after a training simulation in which six of us are assigned to escort a famous author to a book signing. I am part of an advance team scouting the room and the receiving line.

Earlier, that day, we'd been trained how to spot an assailant (watch the eyes, but mostly the hands) and quickly hurl ourselves into harm's way, shielding our principal with our body while firmly pushing him or her downward to make a smaller target and yanking the principal by the waist away from the attack.

That little maneuver is even *harder than it sounds. It is just one* small part of the "choreography" of executive protection, explains instructor Anthony Christiana, a Louisiana police commander and former undercover organized-crime investigator.

How do you protect your executive, but do it so unobtrusively that it doesn't cramp his style?

"You have to learn how to walk with him. How to stay close enough to protect him, but far enough away so he doesn't have to introduce you," Christiana says. "It is like a dance. When he moves, you should move."

So, we practice dancing. We are taught that our best vantage point is to stay just behind and slightly to the right of our principal, roughly within arm's reach. We learn various formations – diamonds, boxes and wedges – for when a VIP needs multiple protectors, and we review how to handle surprise attacks in public settings.

"GUN! Three o'clock!" That blood-curdling yell serves several purposes: It alerts the entire team, and the principal, that an assailant is coming from the right-hand side; it also might momentarily stun the would-be attacker and create commotion in a crowd. The primary bodyguard would jump in front of the principal, bending him over, shielding him with his own body, and evacuating him toward 9 o'clock – and away from the danger.

We practice this maneuver under Christiana's watchful eye. We pair up and spring into action when Christiana shouts the gun warnings. Several pairs of us turn in the wrong direction and collide, or we get our feet tangled up and end up *falling in* large heaps of humanity.

We do better at the book-signing exercise – except that as we guide the famous author through the line of our classmates, she is shot four times with a very loud cap pistol.

Obviously, we still have a lot to learn. (The Washington Post)

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

A better Blondie roars back

In Tune

By David Brinn



Debbie Harry and the new Blondie 'could teach the youngsters a thing or two.'

NO EXIT
Blondie
(Hed Artzi)

HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?
Better Than Ezra
(Hed Artzi)

Blondie was always high concept/low art at its most seductive. Those New York rockers turned international pop stars burned brightly at the end of the 1970s and burned out just as quickly at the dawn of the 1980s, seemingly assuring themselves of a permanent spot in *People* magazine's "Where Are They Now?" section.

I don't think any mystics would have predicted that Blondie would produce the No. 1 hit in most of the Western world in February 1999. But it does make certain sense.

Before Madonna, before Gwen Stefanie of No Doubt, before Courtney Love, there was Debbie Harry. The fantasy of every high-school boy circa 1977, Harry was the very public face of Blondie, CBGB upstart punks made good. Stylish and sleek, the band veered towards the pop end of the punk spectrum by updating the early '60s girl group sound and adding a veneer of sexual allure that was lacking anywhere else on the New Wave landscape.

On such seminal classics as "X Offender" and "Rip Her To Shreds," Harry – in leather miniskirts, heels and a platinum-blonde mane – straddled the line between vixen and the wholesome girl next door like a master acrobat, while the band revved through some of the most memorable tunes of the New Wave era.

Unlike their NY compatriots, Blondie was never afraid to perform with an ear to the radio. Co-opting disco at the height of the "disco sucks" era, the band shifted the rock public's perception of that much maligned form. "Heart of Glass" and "Call Me" were disco hits that rocked.

BUT fame, stress, and serious illness did the band in by 1982 (founder, musical mastermind and Harry's real-life Dagwood, Chris Stein, contracted the often fatal genetic disease pemphigus in the early 1980s). Harry's sluggish solo career also sputtered as she adopted a low profile to nurse Stein, who eventually fully recovered, back to health.

To celebrate, the original band reunited last year, minus bassist Nigel Harrison and guitarist Frank Infantine who are now suing the group over use of the name. The result, *No Exit*, is not the embarrassment it could have been, and in fact can stand proudly next to many of the female-led rock/pop acts out there.

Yes, it's somewhat incongruous to have 53-year-old Harry still singing like a world-wise Betty Boop and looking just as blonde as ever. But the band's commercial chops haven't deteriorated an iota, as a listen to the current smash hit "Maria" will attest. Shameless ear candy, "Maria" boasts all of the band's strengths – strong arrangements, a killer melody and Harry's unmistakable voice.

That combination repeats itself on a handful of other upbeat pop rock songs that could teach the youngsters a trick or two. However, a tendency towards staid middle-of-the-road material – the stuff they used to disdain – diminishes the celebration, and some pointless attempts at hip hop (on a duet with Coolio) and country don't gain many points for originality. Still, it's nice to see some old friends return to the public eye as survivors and not victims.

AN intriguing trio out of New Orleans, Better Than Ezra sounds like it grew up listening to a mix of Simple Minds and U2, along with a steady dose of American college-radio guitar jangle. An alternative radio/MTV favorite since its 1995 debut *Deluxe*, the young band can't seem to decide if it wants to be sprawling keyboard-dominated art rockers or folk-rock mavens.

On its second disc, *How Does Your Garden Grow?*, Better Than Ezra tries to have it both ways to mixed effect. The songs that are centered in pop simplicity with acoustic guitars, sincere melodies and room to expand, like "At the Stars" and "Under You," beat out the less frequent spiky, noisy stabs at funky electronics like the opening track "Je ne m'en souviens pas," which are too constricted to allow for movement.

This is one of those discs where the best material is so good, you want to hear it again and again, and the rest of it is so pedestrian you wonder if the same band recorded it. Given a little more consistency, nobody will be better than Ezra.

Troubled TV network banks on 'Dilbert'

By DAVID ZURAWIK

PASADENA, Calif. – All questions and answers at the troubled United Paramount Network these days seem to begin or end with *Dilbert*, the new animated series about life in a corporate cubicle from cartoonist Scott Adams that debuted at the end of last month.

The biggest question: Can *Dilbert* save UPN? Dean Valentine, the CEO and president of UPN, started his network's midseason presentation to television critics here by putting on a black stove-pipe hat and saying, "Fourscore and 15 days ago, UPN brought forth upon this nation a new sitcom, conceived in silliness and dedicated to the proposition that a television show about the Lincoln White House was created funny.

"We were wrong. And you guys were right. I'd be lying if I said I wasn't disappointed in our fall performance."

That's the first public acknowledgment from UPN that *Desmond Pfeiffer*, an incredibly stupid sitcom about a black valet to President Lincoln, was a disaster for the struggling network. The series drew protests, advertiser boycotts and, despite all the notoriety, few viewers. It was canceled after three weeks.

But UPN's problems run much deeper. Overall, ratings are abysmal in comparison to competing networks such as WB (Warner Brothers). "If there is any lesson I've learned from this past year," Valentine said, "it's that as an emerging network, we have a responsibility to be more innovative and interesting than the other guys.

"Certainly, our Monday night schedule didn't fit those criteria, and we got our butts kicked. The audience told us in no uncertain terms that they weren't interested in the kinds of shows they could get just as easily on other networks.

"We have to try harder, and we think we've succeeded with *Dilbert*."

IT should be said that UPN is trying to do *Dilbert* right. It started with a great property. It is estimated that *Dilbert* the comic strip is read by 150 million people a day worldwide in 1,900 newspapers in 57 countries. On the Internet, *The Dilbert Zone* (www.dilbert.com), receives 4 million visits a month. There are best-selling books, soft-cover comic books and *Dilbert* advertising campaigns for office supply stores.

And UPN has not scrimped on talent. Along with Adams, who serves as creator and executive producer, UPN brought in Larry Charles, an Emmy Award-winning producer from *Mad About You* and *Seinfeld*. For voices, there is Daniel Stern (*The Wonder Years*) as Dilbert, Chris Elliott (*There's Something About Mary*) as Dogbert, Kathy Griffin (*Suddenly Susan*) as Alice and Larry Miller (*The Nutty Professor*) as the pointy-haired boss.

Yet, the pilot itself – the actual product as opposed to all the hype surrounding it – is not very exciting. UPS insists it should be considered a work in progress, as translating the comic to the TV screen was no easy task for Adams and Charles.

As Adams explained, "The hardest part of my whole life is taking complicated things and fitting them into three sentences (for the strip). And now I've got to take a simple thing and, you know, working with Larry and the writing staff, make it into 50 or 60 pages (for the TV script). So, it's kind of like thinking inside out."

Yet fans of the comic strip are reportedly satisfied by the pilot, and should be OK with the TV show. You just look at the screen and think, "Uh-huh, that's Dilbert." (The Baltimore Sun)

Warm sounds wafting from down South

Concert Roundup

Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra-IBA
Sebastian Weigle, conductor
Works by Mozart, Dvorak and Szymanowski
Jerusalem Theater
February 10

Although written in 1933, Szymanowski's seldom performed Violin Concerto No. 2 sounds as though the composer cannot quite tear himself away from the late Romantic style in his labored attempts to assume a modernist posture.

Canadian violinist Chantal Juillet's vibrant, lively and energetic forward drive could be best enjoyed in the cadenza, while the orchestra was silent. In the ensemble passages, the orchestra, conducted by Germany's Sebastian Weigle, frequently overpowered the soloist's songful, brilliant tone in a most ungentlemanly manner.

Mozart's *Cosi fan tutte* overture sounded breathless rather than sprightly, as though the opera's heroines were in some dreadful hurry to fall in and out of love without wasting precious time on Mozartian elegance.

Matters improved considerably in Dvorak's "From the New World" Symphony when the orchestra suddenly woke up, producing a full, well rounded, finely balanced sound and invigorating energies. Instrumental solo passages were highlighted sensitively by discreet, albeit perceptible, slowing that subtly emphasized their odic and emotional significance. Despite the often dense orchestration, textures were remarkably transparent. Pomposity was mostly avoided, even in the brass-heavy final movement, and an enjoyably forceful climax was achieved at the end.

Ury Eppstein

The Israel Sinfonietta Beersheba
Leon Botstein, conductor; Boris Berman, piano
Works by Gershwin, Prokofiev and Brahms
Beersheba Conservatory
February 13

Leon Botstein, music director of the American Symphony Orchestra in New York City, visited the Negev and drew warm, well-disciplined sounds from the Sinfonietta. Brahms's Serenade in D was performed with New World precision and vigorous musicianship, uncluttered by attempts to underline the 19th-century atmosphere of the original.

Gershwin's *Lullaby for Strings* likewise avoided the give and take of vocal repartee in this jazz lullaby, but presented the written text with fidelity and exacting professionalism.

Boris Berman used his left hand with formidable skill and concentration in Prokofiev's Fourth Concerto, which is written for the left hand only. He punctuated its running passages and broken-figured melody with sure-fingered accuracy.

Reminiscent of the better known *Classical Symphony* and the Romantic late Fifth Symphony, it falls short of both these models in formal structure or thematic profile.

Berman and Botstein were at one in their conception of the richly textured but loosely formed concerto, which was presented with clean-cut animation.

Max Stern

Too much talk, too little dance

DANCE REVIEW

Batsheva Dance Company
"Quotations 1-9" (world premiere) by Ohad Naharin
"Duo" (Israeli premiere) by William Forsythe
"Black Milk" and "Perpetuum" by Ohad Naharin.
Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center
February 11.



Ohad Naharin's 'Black Milk' 'benefits from his rich imagination.'

In "Quotations 1-9," Ohad Naharin challenges his previous belief that art reflects life, and states in the program that he prefers to see the stage as a world in itself and life as a reflection of art. The dance is a segment of a work in progress that is due to be completed this summer.

"Quotations 1-9" is accompanied by text that Naharin composed and recites himself, in a deep voice and with a pensively poetic intonation. The text – clipped prosaic movement directions and bits of pseudo autobiography – dominates the work.

Stripped of any ornamentation, true to its misanthropic mood, the dancers wear drab, gray cotton undergarments and the light on stage is a brutal, austere white. The dancers, pushed to the shadows (literally) play second fiddle to Naharin's overriding presence (text and voice).

Naharin's judgment may have been led astray by his ego, and perhaps by the time the work is complete he'll have mixed up all the stage ingredients to prevent a recurrence of the opening night's unprecedented desertion by the audience.

His "Black Milk" and "Perpetuum" served the company well for several seasons. "Milk" underwent major changes through the years as did "Perpetuum," but to a lesser extent.

Both works have benefited from Naharin's rich, sometimes wild streak of imagination, and from his collaboration with long-time partners – prolific costume designer Rakefet Levi and Bambi (lights).

Those talented people also worked with Naharin on his "Quotations 1-9" but it seems that in this instance their creativity was arrested by overly explicit dictation.

Facing the 'fatwa': Salman Rushdie's 'unfunny Valentine'

By HILLEL ITALIE



Moslem protesters in New Delhi burn Rushdie in effigy. (AP)

NEW YORK (AP) – Some ten years and two days ago, Salman Rushdie received what he has called his "unfunny Valentine." On Feb. 14, 1989, the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini condemned *The Satanic Verses* as blasphemy, and called for Rushdie's death. The author, who lives in London, was forced into hiding.

The novel's Japanese translator was murdered and the Italian and Norwegian translators were attacked.

A decade later, the 51-year-old Rushdie is, in many ways, a fortunate man. He has long outlived Khomeini, the Iranian leader who died less than four months after issuing the *fatwa* or religious edict. *The Satanic Verses* has sold more than a million copies worldwide.

Rushdie continues to write and has been seen increasingly in public. Last fall, after Iran's foreign minister said his country would not enforce the *fatwa*, an international committee set up on Rushdie's behalf was disbanded.

But Rushdie's novel, which satirized the Prophet Mohammed and the origins of the Koran, is still banned in several Middle Eastern and Asian countries and is still controversial in parts of the West; only last year did a mainstream British publisher, Vintage, get around to issuing the book in paperback.

"Is the danger entirely gone? Of course not. There's still a bounty on his head. He still receives constant threats," said Susan Sontag, a friend of Rushdie's and a former president of the American center of International PEN, a writers' organization that vehemently opposed the *fatwa*.

"The *fatwa* is in effect, and will remain in effect," said Daniel Pipes, who wrote about the death sentence in the book *The Rushdie Affair*. "My view was when Khomeini died, Rushdie had no chance to escape this edict. No one who took Khomeini's place had the stature to revoke it."

INDEED, in Rushdie's native India, a powerful Muslim cleric recently warned of violent protests against any visit by the author. India, which has a sizable Muslim minority and was the first to ban *The Satanic Verses*, recently granted Rushdie a visa for the first time since the 1980s.

Rushdie's lawyer, Vijay Shankaras, has said the author could visit India within two or three months.

And last September, in Iran, a foundation has offered a $2.8 million reward for Rushdie's death and hundreds turned out for an anti-Rushdie demonstration. Speaking to reporters last fall, Rushdie said he would still need some kind of security, but no longer "the colossal apparatus of state protection." He said a number of suspected stalkers were expelled from Britain over the years, but that none came close to harming him.

Compared to some authors, Rushdie is certainly lucky.

According to International PEN's Writers-in-Prison Committee, over 300 writers and journalists have been killed in the past five years and at any given time some 300 are in prison. For all the worrying that no one cares anymore about writing, some unquestionably still care – enough to want the writer silenced.

"Writers are dangerous because they're free," author Paul Auster said. "They think for themselves, and in a repressive regime that's the most dangerous thing."

Many Iranian writers have lived in exile since the 1979 Islamic revolution and it is believed that several who remained in the country were murdered. Just last year, writers Mohammad Jafar Pouyandeh and Mohammad Mokhtari disappeared from their homes. Their bodies were found dumped on the outskirts of Tehran, both apparently strangled.

The two had tried to establish a writers association and had been summoned by a court two months earlier to answer questions about their activities.

Rushdie, a prominent writer well before *The Satanic Verses*, is the author of eight works of fiction, including the Booker Prize-winning novel *Midnight's Children*, and three works of nonfiction.

His new novel, *The Ground Beneath Her Feet*, will be published by Henry Holt this spring. The main character is a famous pop singer who is trapped in a major earthquake and lost to her friends forever. The last day of her life: St. Valentine's Day, 1989.



Today's shekel



Housing index helps drive CPI down

By JESSICA STEINBERG

The consumer price index fell 0.5 percent in January to 104.7, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday.

The main items pulling the index downward were housing prices and seasonal changes in clothing and footwear prices, offset by increases in produce and health care prices.

The housing index fell 2.4% last month, with homes for sale falling 3.4% and rental prices down 1.5%. Clothing and footwear prices dropped 4.9%, with clothing prices down 5.3% and footwear 3.7%.

At the same time, prices of fruits and vegetables rose 2% due to seasonal factors. Fresh vegetable prices rose 5.7%, while fruit fell 2.9%.

Health care costs rose 1.4%, influenced by a 2% increase in private health care costs and a 4% rise in dental care prices.

The inflationary environment of the last two months shows a return to the inflation rates of last August, commented economists.

"It looks like the Bank of Israel was able to control the rising inflation situation that started to evolve in the last third of 1998," said economist Gil Bufman, general manager at macroeconomic consulting firm Tishray Co.

Following last October's shekel devaluation after market volatility worldwide, the central bank continued operating a tight monetary policy, which included a 4% interest rate hike over the course of October and November. Total inflation for 1998 was 8.6%.

"The whole exchange rate episode now looks like a one-time adjustment," said Bufman. "Things do look favorable."

The negative CPI follows the 0.1% rise in December. The January CPI was the lowest monthly index overall since January 1986, when the index fell 1.3%, according to the bureau's figures.

The January CPI reflects the bureau's new method for calculating housing prices and has also adjusted the weight of several elements in the index.

Another factor which influenced the cost of housing was the shekel's increase against the dollar in January, said bureau deputy director Yoel Finkel.

The shekel rose 2.3% in January, following the central bank's 4% interest rate boost in November to 13.5%. The central bank aimed to support the shekel, which fell to NIS 4.367 to the dollar in late October, but refrained from intervening in the currency. The currency has since recovered, and was trading at 4.051 to the dollar yesterday.

The Manufacturers Association and Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce issued statements last night calling for a cut in interest rates following the low consumer price index. The Bank of Israel must begin the process of "gradually bringing the interest rate down" in order for the economy to return to a period of growth, said Manufacturers Association President Dan Propper.

The Bank of Israel may reduce interest rates for March, said economists, given inflation's downward trend and the strengthening of the shekel since its October devaluation.

It's carnival time

On the agenda

By Eliakim Katz

Elections, that greatest of democratic celebrations, are once again upon us.

The resolute, yet kindly features, of our wannabe leaders decorate our streets and our bridges. Their words of wisdom fill our airwaves. Yet-to-stale promises of motherhood and apple-pie abound. The carnival is in full swing.

The term carnival, by the way, is related to carnivore, and therefore provides a doubly appropriate description of our very non-vegetarian elections. Carnivals, of course, imply the spending of money, and, as usual before elections, there seems to be plenty of spending around.

The most visible and audible spending is done by the political parties. See above. But don't worry, most of the money they spend on convincing us to vote for them does not emanate from their own supporters. No sir. It derives from all of us.

The amount involved is not trivial. Currently, tax-payers fund the propaganda to which they are subjected to the tune of NIS 1.3 million per-annum, plus an additional NIS 1m. in an election year for each member of the Knesset. Every four years, if not even more frequently due to yet another coalition's mid-term collapse, the good people of Israel pay over NIS 700m. for political posters, jingles, assemblies, junk mail, and what not. No wonder we tend to feel over-exposed.

But hey, nothing good comes cheap, and democracy is no exception.

In addition, it is an axiom of Western civilization that governments spend money and/or cut taxes before elections. The opposition, lacking such access to the public purse, promises to spend/cut as soon as they get their hands on the said purse. And the amounts involved in these budgetary changes are considerably greater than the costs of direct electioneering.

At first glance the rationale for such spending appears to be based on the assumption that the electorate suffers both from a low IQ and early stages of senility.

When the government gives now only to take later, when unnecessary election promises are fulfilled and eventually paid for, the economy does not gain. It suffers. And so, of course, does the average citizen. The economy suffers because both the granting and retrieving are not free of charge. They consume resources, and ultimately shrink the pie.

Unnecessary spending and taxation distort the economy and make it operate below its true potential. In terms of the economy as a whole, unnecessary spending and taxation is downright dumb.

Do our politicians really believe that their electorate is both stupid and myopic? Well, too many hours of seeing the world through the curtained window of a ministerial Swedish car might breed such beliefs. But our current and would-be-chiefs are smarter than that. After all, our electorate provides little evidence of stupidity. They work. They plan. They find their way through bureaucratic mazes.

No. Our electorate is neither dumb nor senile. Certainly not more so than our leadership. Both the voters and their potential representatives know exactly what they are doing, and why.

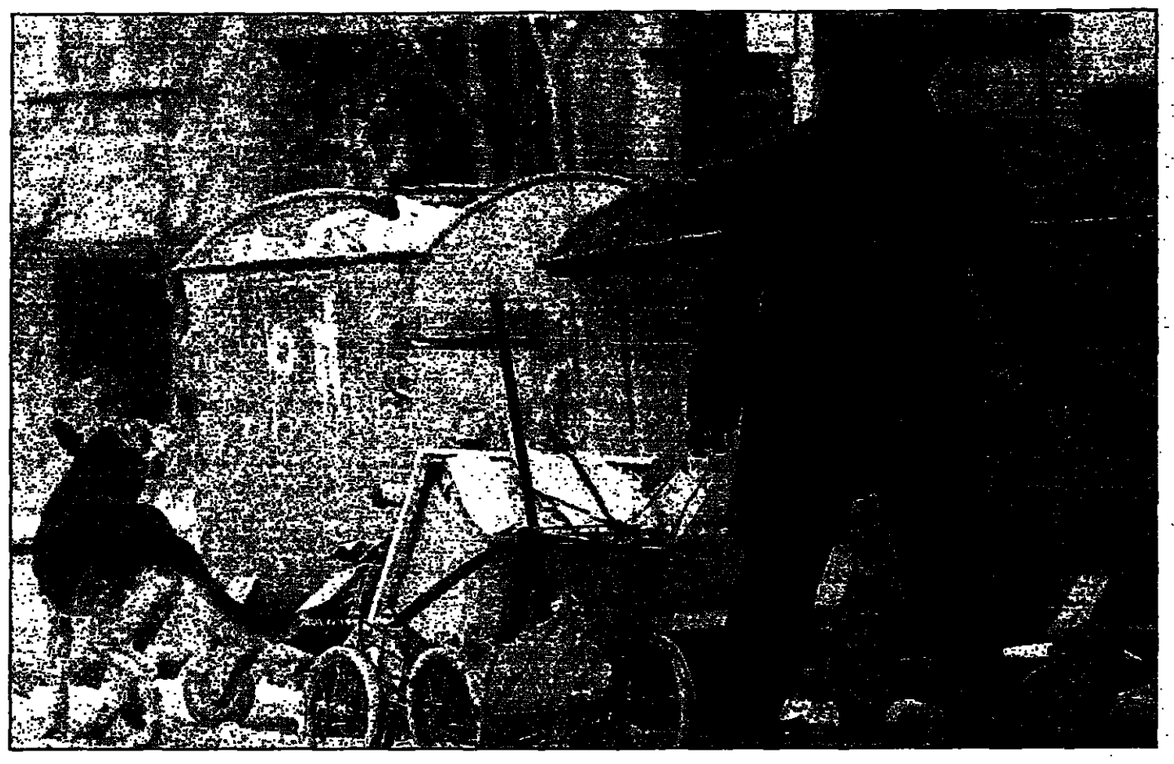
The reality is that election economics is more than a pointless distortion in economic policy. Election economics, especially as pursued in Israel, is a tool of divisiveness. In the final analysis, it is less about how much is spent, and more about how the spending is divided. And most human battles are, ultimately, about economics.

In the run-up to the election the government has given up on certain segments of the population while focusing on those it feels it can conquer by election day. Obviously the government sees no reason to share its carnival with those who are unlikely to support it. In the style of the Talmudic Kamza and Bar-Kamza story about the wealthy miser who caused the Temple's destruction, some are invited and some are firmly, excluded. And those excluded get nothing. In fact, they get less than nothing, because in its attempt to display fiscal responsibility, the government reduces spending on, and transfers to, its less favoured sectors. One person's gain is another's pain. Not surprisingly, that other one is not happy.

Similarly, the opposition has given up on some segments of the electorate. It therefore promises a post-victory bounty to its own proteges, which in turn would be financed by the less favoured.

Since the election is likely to be close, this constitutes a real threat to the excluded ones. Divide-and-rule takes on a whole new meaning in the longer run. Election spending may have a relatively marginal effect on the national economy, but in the realm of national unity it exacts a hefty price which can hardly be gauged.

The writer is an economics professor at York University, Toronto



Down on his luck

A homeless Bulgarian man pulls a cart filled with paper gathered from garbage containers in the suburbs of Sofia yesterday. A monthly survey by the local branch of the Gallup polling agency said that 50 percent of Bulgarians live in poverty. (Reuters)

Foreign drug companies set up local lobby

By JUDY SIEGEL

Some 15 representatives of international pharmaceutical companies in Israel have established a non-profit organization to lobby on behalf of their mutual interests, including getting the government to put controls on parallel importing of medications. Called Pharma Israel, the association of research-based pharmaceutical companies warned yesterday that "medicines supplied by the manufacturer are handled, packaged, stored, and transferred in a way that ensures their quality.

"When medicines are handled by other economic operators, it is impossible for the manufacturer to guarantee the medicine was handled properly. Moreover, when a medicine reaches the market by operators other than the manufacturer, it is almost impossible to determine whether it is an original medicine or counterfeit," Pharma Israel declared.

The organization, whose members now face competition from other importers, said it was concerned who would guarantee sufficient stocks when medicines are imported from other sources. Who will ensure that counterfeit drugs won't find their way into Israel pharmacies, and who will be accountable for defective medicines? Who will compensate patients harmed by parallel imports?, Pharma Israel asked.

The organization also suggested that the Health Ministry and other government supervision of parallel imports could wipe out estimated savings brought about by parallel imports, and that parallel-import drugs could be of a different color, shape, and dosage that harm patients used to taking existing products in their present shape and form.

The ministry, which backed the changing of the economic arrangements bill that allowed parallel imports, claimed existing importers have been monopolistic and have charged considerably beyond the costs of the same drugs available in Europe and the US.

The ministry spokesman said last week that it is working on mechanisms and regulations that would ensure proper supervision, but Kupat Holim Clalit health fund has already said it would begin getting parallel imports very soon.

Forget coins and tickets: Park by phone

THE STARTUP

BY NICKY BLACKBURN

If you're fed up with hunting for parking meters, pay and display units or scratch cards when you want to park your car in the city, then a new computerized parking system developed by start-up Baran TeleParking Systems could be just the answer.

Baran TPS, a subsidiary of the Baran Advanced Technologies Group, has developed a parking system that allows drivers to park by cellular phone.

Drivers using the technology need only dial a number to automatically receive the hi-tech equivalent of a parking ticket. A small unit which can be placed on the car mirror or on the dashboard shows that you are allowed to park and the bill for service arrives with your telephone bill at the end of the month.

The simple-to-use technology, which is now being tested in a pilot scheme by Tel Aviv Municipality, took two years to develop and is now at the prototype stage.

The company has applied for patents all over the world.

Baran TPS, which employs seven people and 20 part-timers, began work on TPS at the end of 1996. So far it has invested $1 million in the project, most of it funded by Baran, the rest from the Office of the Chief Scientist.

Last year the Tel-Aviv company began running a pilot scheme for Tel Aviv Municipality involving 300 drivers. Two other Israeli companies are also involved in the pilot, VPS, and Kontop, a company based in Savyon.

Another pilot is on the cards in a major US city but Katz won't reveal which. "I don't want my competitors to run to the same city," he says.

Still, he can't stop from hinting that it is one of the biggest cities in the world or that the municipality has already sent Baran TPS a letter of intent.

The pilot scheme in Tel Aviv is a mini version of how the TPS system works.

Basically all the driver has to do when he finds a space in which he wants to park, is dial *5020 from his cellular phone and then add the details of which zone he is in. The information is instantly relayed to a central computer and also flashes up on a small cordless unit in the car. This gives the driver details of how long he can park in the space and how much money it will cost him.

Using the telephone the driver can also call for assistance to find out which zone he is in or to find out how much money he has spent on his account.

On his return the driver presses the star button and his parking is cancelled.

During the period the driver has requested parking the small patented Parcom unit flashes a red light which can be seen from a distance of 40 meters. This allows traffic wardens to instantly verify whether the car has a valid parking ticket.

Using a specially designed pocket unit the warden can check the number of the car, the amount of time the driver has left on the ticket and which zone of the city the driver lives in.

The patented display unit is a feature which Katz believes makes his system stand out from the two competing Israeli systems which do not have similar technology.

"It's a very convenient system," says Katz. "It's simple, easy to use, and you don't have to worry about coins or parking tickets. All you need is your cellular phone."

The company aims to give the Parcom units away to drivers for free. Possibly with some kind of deposit system, Katz is not sure yet.

For those who don't have a cellular phone, TTS is prepared. The company has developed a stand-alone unit with a built-in transceiver that can be used just for parking.

Bills come once a month and can be paid by credit card or direct withdrawal.

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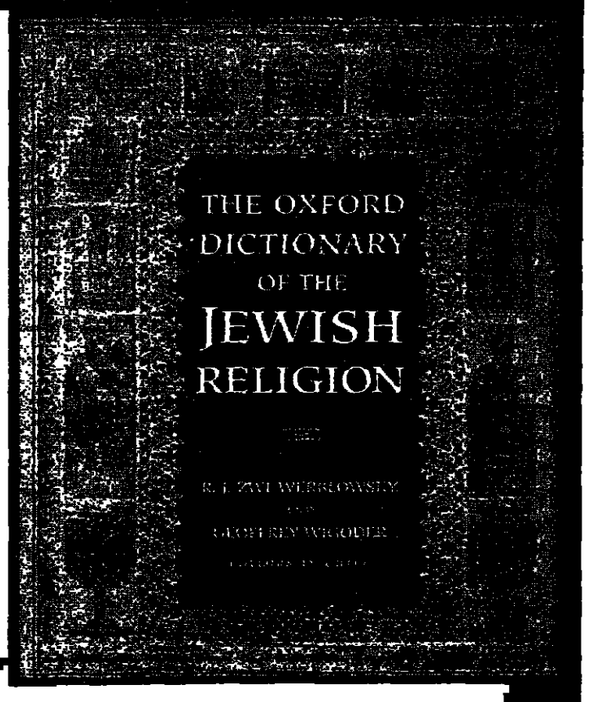
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Japan OKs $65b. bank-help plan

TOKYO (Reuters) – Japanese banking shares gained yesterday amid growing optimism in the market that tentative government approval to inject up to 7.45 trillion yen in public funds into banks may help stabilize the financial system.

The rise, in turn, helped spur a mild rally in the market's benchmark Nikkei average of 225 blue-chip shares, which ended the day up 81.03 yen or 0.58 percent at 14,054.72.

"With the tentative approval to inject public money into banks, we now see a clearer framework [to help banks], which will increase the buying opportunity for bank shares," said Hidenori Kawasaki, general manager at Kokusai Securities.

But analysts cautioned that last week's public fund approval is only the beginning, and there is still a long and varied road ahead for Japanese banks and their struggle with bad loans.

"Bank shares have been rated underweight so that some buying would emerge in line with a growing sense of safety. I would like to focus on which stock issues will be bought," Kawasaki added.

Credit rating agency Standard & Poor's Corp. also remained negative, saying in a report yesterday that the approval "may stabilize the banks, but it will not restore their creditworthiness and is unlikely to end the credit crunch currently afflicting the domestic market."

On Friday, Japan's Financial Revitalization Commission gave preliminary approval for capital injections for 15 banks under a government scheme to pump life into the moribund banking sector.

The news sparked a 1.18% jump in the bank subindex yesterday. Sakura Bank ended up nine yen at 260, Sanwa Bank was up five at 1,135, and Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank up 23 at 716.

The financial daily *Nihon Keizai Shimbun* estimated that Japan's major banks, including those applying for public funds, are expected to write off more than 9 trillion yen in nonperforming loans for the business year ending on March 31.

Analysts said Japan's top 17 banks including the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, which did not apply for public funds, will raise their capital by a total of about 10 trillion yen.

They said the rise may erase any imminent risk of a financial system crisis but the bad loan mess is not expected to end soon.

They said problem loans could soar in the coming years with the nation's economy mired in a steep recession that has resulted in a high level of corporate bankruptcies.

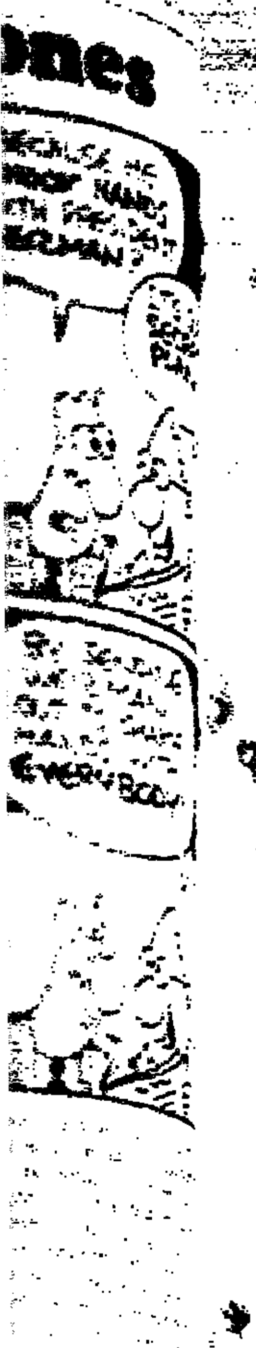
S&P agreed, saying the threat of new problem loans remains as ongoing weakness in the economy continues to claim casualties in the construction, real estate, and non-bank finance sectors.

"Banking results could be further dampened in the near term by declines in loss-protective collateral value and securities losses on equity holdings and potentially bonds, given the recent run-up of interest rates," it added.

The Financial Supervisory Agency reported last month that Japan's 17 biggest banks had 44.22 trillion yen in questionable and problem loans at the end of September, up from 44.09 trillion yen at the end of March.

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Stocks rise, led by Israel Chemicals

SHARES

TEL AVIV

Stocks rose, led by Israel Chemicals Ltd., whose subsidiary signed an agreement to build a $30 million bromine plant in China, and amid expectations that inflation declined last month.

The Maof Index rose 2.04 percent to 302.74, its biggest one-day jump since December 21, after falling 0.21% on Sunday. All but one of the benchmark index's stocks gained.

Israel Chemicals Ltd. rose 2.95% to NIS 3.84. The company's Dead Sea Bromine Ltd. subsidiary signed an agreement with China's Shandong Haihua Shareholding Co. to set up a $30 million joint venture to sell bromine. Dead Sea Bromine rose 2.36% to 26.

Bezeq Ltd. rose 2.09% to 12.69. The government Companies Authority requested that the state-controlled telecommunications company hold a general meeting to discuss proposed changes to its charter governing the appointment of directors by major shareholders.

Discount Investments Ltd. rose 2.30% to 120. Discount Investments and United Pan-European Communications own about half the shares in Tevel Ltd., a cable television company that serves Tel Aviv. UPC shares rose 26% on stock exchanges in New York and Amsterdam where they traded for the first day on Friday.

EUROPE

European stocks rose, led by Barclays Plc and other British banks, on optimism their earnings are improving. Philips Electronics NV and other technology shares dropped, mirroring Friday's declines by their US counterparts.

Barclays, the UK's second-largest bank, is expected to report tomorrow that second-half 1998 earnings per share rose 80% to 27.4 pence, according to a survey by Bloomberg News. The shares have risen 16% since Thursday, when the company announced the appointment of Michael O'Neill as the chief executive.

The Dow Jones Europe Stoxx Index rose 10.74 points, or 0.32%, to 3370.17. Gainers and decliners were about equal.

Barclays rose 49 to 1,569. Philips fell 1.5 euros to 61.5.

Barclays's profits are expected to rise, mostly because it took a £425 million charge in the second half of 1997 when it sold its equity and corporate advisory businesses. In the second half of 1998, the bank set aside a smaller £250m. to cover losses on Russian lending.

Among other UK banks, Lloyds TSB Group Plc rose 20 to 872.5 National Westminster Plc gained 38 to 1,264, and Royal Bank of Scotland Plc added 40 to 1,237.5.

Computer-related stocks slid, mirroring the decline of the technology-laden Nasdaq Composite Index, which dropped 3.5% to 2321.89 on Friday.

"European markets are being influenced by the technological sector following Friday's dip in US stocks," said Antonio Blazquez, of Barclays Fondos SGICC SA in Madrid. "This is bad news for the week."

Cap Gemini, Europe's biggest computer-services and consulting company, fell 7.1 euros to 152.9. Siemens AG lost 0.58 euro to 60.42, and STMicroelectronics NV, Europe's No. 2 semiconductor maker, fell 1.4 euros to 84.

ASIA

Japan's move last week to cut interest rates failed to excite Asian share markets, many of which were closed or dozing on lunar New Year's eve.

Tokyo closed 0.58% higher, helped more by a plan to recapitalize commercial banks than by the Japanese central bank's decision on Friday to ease credit.

Rising Japanese government bond yields, which prompted the rate cut and threaten Japan's efforts to reignite its economy, shrugged off the bank's move and continued to climb.

In shortened trade, Hong Kong stocks ended down 0.24% and Singapore shares ended up 0.46%. Australia's market closed 0.4% lower.

Share markets in China, South Korea, Taiwan, and Malaysia were closed.

Tokyo's benchmark Nikkei 225 average ended up 81.03 points at 14,054.72.

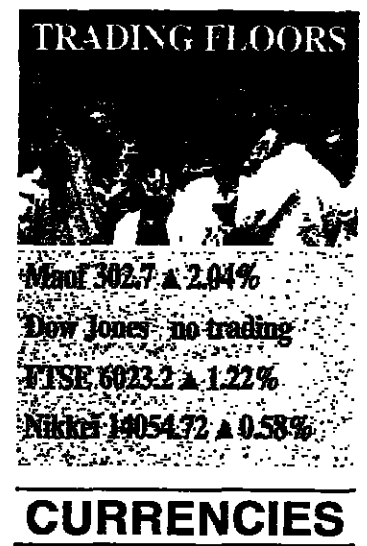
Bank shares gained after 15 banks won preliminary approval on Friday to receive capital injections totalling 7.45 trillion yen ($65 billion). The money is expected to help them write off bad loans.

Hong Kong's blue chip Hang Seng index lost 23.03 points to end at 9,402.39.

"The market was simply pushed too hard on Friday so it was always going to come down today...," said Richard Verin, head of equities and trading at CS First Boston.

The Hang Seng surged 3.05% on Friday on anticipation the government would resume public land sales. The government later said that public land sales, frozen last year to stabilize property prices, would resume in April.

Singapore's Straits Times Index ended at 1,361.15, up 6.30 points in sleepy, shortened trade. Buying focused on blue chips and banks which had fallen sharply last week, dealers said.



CURRENCIES

The dollar was little changed against the yen for a second day on concern rising Japanese bond yields will prompt Japanese companies to bring home more of their overseas earnings, bolstering the yen.

Bank of Japan policy-makers voted Friday not to increase the amount of government bonds it buys on the secondary market.

The bank did lower its target overnight loan rate between banks to a record-low 0.15% from 0.25%, in an effort to stem the surge in bond yields and boost the economy.

The dollar was little changed at 114.60 yen, from 114.51 late Friday in London.

It was rose to $1.1251 per euro, taking its gain versus the single currency so far this year to 3.7%. US markets are closed for a holiday today.

Bank of Japan policy makers took action after the yield on Japan's benchmark No. 203 government bond tripled since early October, prompting fears higher borrowing costs could push Japan's economy deeper into recession.

Japan's benchmark No. 203 bond maturing in 2008 fell 0.42 today, or 209 yen per 50,000 yen bond, to 97.392, driving its yield 6 basis points higher to 2.14%.

The dollar reached 115.80 yen immediately after the central bank's rate cut, which makes the return on yen-denominated deposits less attractive. The dollar soon lost its steam to trade as low as 113.86 yen by late Friday on expectations Japanese government bond yields will continue to climb.

Traders said the yen's gains would be limited by speculation the Bank of Japan may act to halt its climb, which threatens to hurt the economy by making exports more expensive.

The Finance Ministry last asked the Bank of Japan to step in the currency market and buy dollars on January 12, the day after the US currency sank to a 28-month low of 108.22 yen. Since then, the dollar hasn't traded below 111 yen.

"The yen has limited room to rise," said Takayuki Togawa, a foreign exchange manager at Tokai Bank Ltd. "I suspect Japan and the US will work together not to let the yen top 110 to the dollar. The US is concerned about the Japanese economy, and if Japan's collapses, that could roil US financial markets."

Elsewhere, European Central Bank policy-makers meet Thursday to set interest rates for the 11 countries that adopted the euro. The benchmark refinancing rate now stands at 3.0%.

The implied yield on the three-month June Euribor futures contract, a guide for interest rate expectations, stands at 2.95%. That's far enough below current three-month lending rates of 3.10% to indicate some traders and investors anticipate the ECB will trim borrowing costs in coming months to help boost growth.

COMMODITIES

ENERGY

Crude oil was little changed amid expectations that colder weather in Europe will fail to eliminate a global supply glut, which has grown as warm weather in the US reduces demand for heating oil.

"I don't see any reason for oil prices to go up because there's still a tremendous oversupply," said John Maidman, a broker with PVM Oil Futures.

Brent crude oil for April delivery was up 1 cent at $10.44 a barrel in morning trading on the International Petroleum Exchange in London. Oil trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange is closed for the US Presidents' Day holiday.

A unusually mild 1997-98 winter in the Northern Hemisphere contributed to a drop of almost 30% in crude oil prices in the past year.

Gasoil, a group of fuels that includes heating oil, for March delivery rose as much as 25 cents to $94 a metric ton on the IPE.

Gasoil futures have fallen more than 30 percent during the past year.

METALS

Silver rose to its highest price in almost seven months as falling inventories and surging borrowing costs signaled strong demand from investors and manufacturers.

Silver lease rates rose to their highest level since last February, when billionaire Warren Buffett's investment company, Berkshire Hathaway Inc., said it accumulated a large stockpile of the metal. Prices rose to nine-year highs in the days after the announcement.

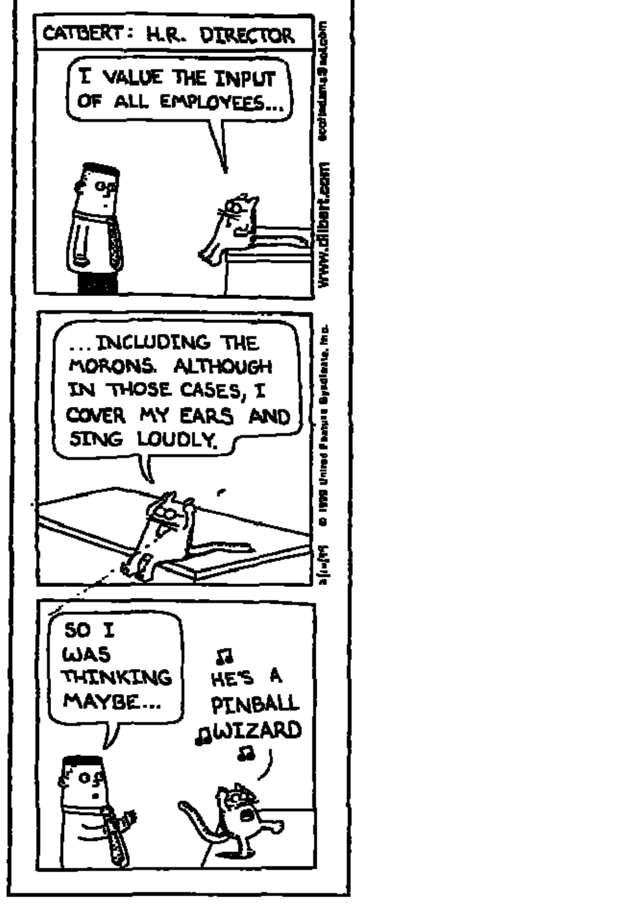
"The movement in prices is mainly due to the borrowing costs," said Michael Wagner, head of trading at Brandeis, Hauck & Partner in Frankfurt. "It's the same as last year."

Silver for immediate delivery jumped as much as 14 cents, or 2.5%, to $5.805 an ounce in inter-bank trading, its highest price since July 24.

One-month lease rates rose to an annual rate of as much as 15% in London, traders said, the highest level since February 20, 1998. Lease rates were at 5.0856% Friday.

The high rates come as silver stockpiles in warehouses run by the Comex division of the New York Mercantile Exchange were at 76.791 million ounces, about 17% lower than a year ago. (Agencies)

DILBERT
By Scott Adams



Greece gives Uncle Sam a run for his money

ATHENS (Bloomberg) – Greece, where inflation was running at 16 percent just a few years ago, may soon pay less to borrow money than the US Treasury.

In all likelihood, yields on 10-year Greek government bonds, now about 5.89%, will slip below those on 10-year US Treasuries this year or next, fund managers said. The gap is less than a percentage point today – and closing.

Is Greece a safer credit than Uncle Sam? Greece, where one person in 10 is out of work and where bureaucrats take leave to pick olives? No. It is just a potent example of convergence, a phenomenon that has accompanied the shift toward a single European currency – and one investors can still profit from.

For almost a decade, borrowing costs across the continent have been closing in on one another as nations brought their economies into sync for European economic and monetary union, or EMU. Eleven countries, among them Germany and France, adopted the euro on January 1. Greece plans to do so in 2001.

"The whole point of EMU was to create a single, seamless, homogeneous capital market," said Thomas Carpenter, of ASB Capital Management in Washington, D.C. "Once Greece moves into EMU, it will merit those yields."

Bond yields in Germany, Europe's biggest economy, have already slid below their US counterparts. European inflation is so low – at 0.8%, the annual rate in the 11-member euro club is less than half that in the US – that investors can accept lower yields without forfeiting their real return.

Greece, still a euro club wannabe, is going along for the ride with full members like Germany. As Andrew Snowball, of Julius Baer Investments Ltd. put it, Greece is "piggybacking" on its neighbors' reputations.

Not everyone is sure Greece will be allowed into the euro club in two years. A resurgence of inflation – bondholders' biggest enemy and the nation's thorniest economic problem in the past – could temporarily shut the door.

That is why Greece still pays more for its money than most other European countries, including Germany, where yields are the lowest on the continent. Ten-year German bonds pay about

MARKETWATCH

3.80%, two percentage points less than Greek bonds.

Many investors are betting on EMU and on Greece, whose 10-year bonds offer the highest yields in Europe. Yields in the $3.5 trillion US Treasury market may determine the interest rates paid by companies and investors around the world, but the pull of EMU is drawing Greek yields within reach of those in America.

Greek bonds have rallied relentlessly since October. Bonds due in 2008 tumbled to 6.08% from 8.75%.

The result: The gap between Greek yields and comparable US yields narrowed to 1.19 percentage points from 2.91 points.

Greece's long bond, due in 2014, pays just 0.6 point more than the 30-year Treasury, the most widely followed rate in the world. Those spreads are a barometer of the risk investors perceive in Greek debt, and are pointing to fair weather.

The showing has helped make Greece a stand-out performer in the world's bond markets. Measured in dollars, the Greek 2008 bond returned 24.53% in the past year, more than twice the return on seven- to 10-year Treasuries. Only British and Italian bonds did better.

And if Greece can catch 10-year Treasuries, which yield about 4.90%? People who buy Greek bonds due 2008 today will pocket a 9-point capital gain, or $90 per $1,000 bond.

Bureaucrats in Athens still have plenty to crow about. It took them less than six years to cut their nation's annual inflation rate to 3.70% from 16.5%. The rate will probably drop to about 2.5% this year – "amazing," Snowball said.

Along the way, Greece managed to persuade many investors that it is no longer an emerging economy but one that can stand alongside the biggest, most developed markets in Europe.

Standard & Poor's Corp. was among the converts: The credit rating company raised its assessment of the nation's foreign debt to "BBB" in November. Today, Moody's Investors Service said its outlook on Greece's foreign currency rating is positive.

Not everyone is bullish – or says Greece deserves to borrow at such low rates. After all, the nation's total debt is 108% of its annual economic output, against 66% for the US. And then there's inflation. Rising wages, particularly for government workers, could put pressure on prices. Last year, inflation accelerated between February and May before slowing again. The potential for trouble is all the more apparent because the inflation rate in the 11-nation euro region, at less than 1%, is the lowest in three decades.

"Inflation is Greece's Achilles heel," said Gerd Neitzel, of at Siemens AG. "It will take Greece another two or three years to converge with Europe."

For now, though, Greece is giving Uncle Sam a run for his money.

Financial Markets

TEL AVIV 100
LEADING SHARES

	LAST	CHANGE*
Afrca Hotels	507	0
Afrca Israel 0.1	20909	-0.9
Afrca Israel 1	185809	-1.8
Agis	1980	1.5
Af Paper Mills	15210	0.1
Al-Rov	1657	0.4
Azorim	2990	3.1
Azorim Prop.	780	0
Bank Leumi 0.1	584	2.4
Baran	3080	1.7
Bayside 1	44800	0
Bayside 5	222000	0
Bezeq	1289	2.1
Blue Square	5000	0
Bromine	2609	2.4
Carmel	2080	0
Clal Electronics	62500	1
Clal Industries	1864	2
Clal Insurance	3450	2
Clal Israel 1	8550	1.4
Dan Hotels	648	0
Dankner	1979	0
Darban	595	-2.5
Dead Sea Works 0.1	880	1.7
Delek 0.1	11000	0.4
Delek Car	788	1.1
Delta 1	3930	-0.3
Development Mort	17370	2.1
Discount Bank	353	2.6
Discount Inv.	12000	2.3
Elbit 0.003	1430	1.1
Elbit imaging	4520	1.3
Elbit system	5330	1.9
Elco Holdings	1949	0
Elco Industries	3480	0
Elecrz	17400	1.2
Electra App	2640	5.6
Elite Ind. 1	2740	2.2
Elite Ind. 5	13740	2.7
Elron 0.003	6340	2.1
FIBI 5	2470	0.4
First Int'l 1	383	-0.5
First Int'l 5	1882	1.2
First Int'l Mort	36000	0
Formula	9460	2.8
General Bank	8680	0.3
Grand Hacanaal	484	1.5
Hadarim Prop.	7620	0
Hapoalim 0.1	736	1.8
Harel Shelmer 1	3113	2
Harel Mishaver 5	14800	0.7
Home Center	3790	-2.8
I.D.B. Dev.	8840	2.2
I.D.B. Holdings	8980	1.6
ILDC	2710	1.9
Ind Bldgs	490	1.7
Israel Chemicals	384	2.9
Israel Corp. 1	53599	1.8
Isrotel	627	0.6
Jacey	759	0
JCT	29.9	0.7
JEC	1500	0
Kitan	427	4.4
Kristal	4159	0
Koor	38050	2
Leumi Insurance	215	2.4
Leumi Mortgage	63300	2.4
Ma'ariv	3180	-2.2
Makhteshim Agan Ind.	787	1.7
Matav	478	3.5
Mehab	4800	-0.2
Mehadrin	12290	-2.4
Mei Eden	1560	0
Melisron	391	0
Menorah Ins. 1	1550	0
Mizhlan	58000	2.1
Mivtach Shamir	2050	-1
Mizrahi	675	2.3
NATSVA REGULAR	1470	0
Nice Systems	9570	2.7
Ormat Industries	474	-1
Osem Industries	1738	1.8
Petrochemicals	2090	-0.5
Phoenix Ins. 1	882	0
Plasson	4000	-0.5
Poalim Inv.	11400	2.2
Point of Sale	2890	2.3
Prop & Bldg	31200	-0.3
Salt Industries	1731	0.1
Shikun u'Binui	283	3.1
Solel Boneh	3930	14.6
Supersol	988	1.9
Taleam	1890	0
Tambour	545	0
Tefahot	171000	-0.1
Tempo	1648	7.5
Teva	15770	2.4
Urope Israel	2680	-0.7
Wire and Cables	1130	-1.7
Ytong Industries	833	4.2

RETZEF
SMALL CAPITALIZATION TASE ISSUES

	LAST	CHANGE*
Abjac	1.6	6.7
Abodi	42.8	0
Ace-Spade	87.8	0
Ackerstein Bond B	183.4	0
Ackerstein Ind.	420	0
Ackerstein Zvi 1	1600	0
Ackerstein Zvi 5	7700	-0.6
Adanim	287400	0
Adler	120	0
Adsha	120	0
Adamin	310	0
Africa Hotels Bond B	97.7	0
Africa Hotels Warrant 2	67	0
Africa Israel Hotels Bond A	141.8	0.2
Afeek Ind	974	0
Agis Warrant 4	210	0
Agish Int'l	329	0
Agri Investments	430	0
Al-Ben	149.9	0
Al-Ben Bond A	125.9	0
Alhe c2	97	0
Alhe w6	116	0
Alliance	595	2.6
Alon	267	0
Alony-Hetz	465	3.1
Alony-Hetz Bond A	215	3.4
Alrod	200	0
Alrod Warrant 1	1	0
Alrov Bond D	81.6	-0.7
Alrov Warrant 5	99	0
Alumir	256	0
Alumit	2100	0
Amgar	308	0
Analec	127	0
Ananel Warrant 1	73.7	3.8
Amnal	760	0
Ampa Investments	10100	0
Analyst EMS	800	0
Angel Trade	58.5	0
Angel Trade Bond A	162	0
Angel Trade Bond B	120	0.7
Angel Trade Bond C	66	0
Apcon	688	0
Apcon warrant 1	181	-4.2
Applicom	2400	0
Aracell Warrant 2	306	-3.8
Arad	1250	0
Arad Towels	1300	0
Arazim	113.5	0
Argaman	127	0
Adadan	1375	0
Argal	735	0
Aryt	103	3
Ashkelon Plywood	514	0
Ashkelon Plywood Bond 2	153.8	0

	LAST	CHANGE*
Ashlad	510	0
Ashlad Bond A	162.8	0.2
Ashot	230	9.5
Ashot Bond A	183	1.4
Ashpara	94	8
Ashtrom Bond 1	180.2	0
Ashtrom Bond 2	165.6	0
Ashtrom Ind.	550	0
Ashtrom Prop.	172.6	1.5
Astrom P Bond 1	85	0
Astrom p warrant a	22.8	0
Astrom Bond C	105.5	0.2
Astrom Warrant 2	29	0
Atilon	80	0
Almor	1000	0
ATX	188.3	0
Atzmon	180	0
Aura	4550	3.4
Avarot	290	7.3
Avarot Bond A	168	0
Averbuch Formica	600	0
Aviv	415	0
Aviv Bond 1	161	0
Aviv Bond 2	91	0.2
Avner	4.8	0
Avrot Bond 2	88	0
Avrot Warrant 2	25	0
Ayalon	945	0
Azimuth	416	-0.2
Azorim Properties Bond 3	185	0
Azorim Warrant 13	391	7.1
Azorim Warrant 5	103.5	0
Azorim Warrant A	150	-15.7
Azorim Warrant B	505	1
Badash Bond 1	25.1	0
Bailit	268	0
Balentine 1	143.5	0
Balentine Bond A	133.2	0
Balron	3960	0
Bams'asaf	950	0
Bams'asaf Bond A	149.7	0.1
Bar	333	0
Bar Bond A	137	0
Barad	299	0
Baranowitz	600	0
Barkan	619	0
Barzel	109	0
Bartel	200	0
Bauml Moshe	163.5	0
BaySide Bond 2	94.2	-0.2
BaySide Warrant D	1031	3
Beit Shemesh	1475	3.4
Belmon	415	0
Ben Yakar Bond A	185.5	0.5
Ben Yakar Bond B	87	0
Ben Yakar Gat	4900	0
Berman	187	0
Bezek Bond 3	125.6	-0.7
Bezek Warrant Bond 3	292	2.8
Bilu	2000	0
Bilu Bond A	166	0
Binar	260	0
Biri	282	0
Bolos Bond B	86.3	0
bolos gad warrant 1	39	0
Bonei Tichon	489	0
Bonjour	550	0
Boulous Brothers	132.9	0
Boulous Brothers Bond 1	269	0.4
Boulous GD	383	0
Boulous GD Bond A	140.3	0
Brand	99	0
Brill	36	0
Brok Side	14.3	0
Brosh	112.5	0
Building Bank	1360	-10
Building Resou.	4100	0
C Holdings	268	-10
C Holdings Bond 5	53	-8.6
Caesarea 1	6580	0
Capital	960	0
Capital Bond A	126	0
Caprice	283	5.5
Cargal	580	0
Carmel	479	0
Carmiel	408	0
Castro	469	2
Catalona 1	431	0
CDI	204	0

	LAST	CHANGE*
Cemantecal Bond A	50	0
Cementcal	182.3	3.9
Centra	150	0
Centre Bond 1	142	1.4
Cham	385	4.6
Chayun Computers	161	0
Chemipal	450	0
Chim-Nir	354	0
CI Systems	119	0
Cidab	260	-7.5
Clal Computers	9170	1.4
Clal Retail	49700	0
Cohen Beni	151	0
Cohen Dev.	179	0
Cohen MM	130	0
Cold Storage 1	2260	0.4
Compl	157	0
Compl Warrant 1	11.7	0
Compufile	190	0
Comtech	420	0
Comtrans	809	0
Contal	1100	0
Contractors	21800	0
Coral Beach	768	0
Credit Line	3.4	0
Credit Lines Bond A	33	0
Cyclone 1	2710	2.7
Cyclone Bond 2	166.8	0
Datron	1545	0
Dalin	1	0
Dan Rent-A-Car	780	0
Dan Rent-A-Car Bond A	168.5	0.3
Danber 1	3320	0
Danber 5	8700	0
Danber Bond A	294	0
Danber Resources	3970	0
Danber Resources Bond B	177	0
Danber Tech.	4330	-10.7
Danber Technologies Bond A	163.1	0
Danel	90	0
Danel Bond A	91	0
Danel Personnel	1840	0
Danel Warrant 2	151	16.2
Dankner Bond 1	220	0
Dankner Bond 2	148	0
Dankner Bond 3	96	0.5
Dankner Warrant C	380	0
Danty	550	0
Daniel	109.4	-3.2
DARBAN BOND 2	102	0.5
Darban Bond A	171	0
Darban Warrant 3	60	0
Dassa	155	0
Darion	299	0
Dash Investment	640	0
Data	677	0
Decision Systems	358	0
Degem Systems	395	0.8
Delek Drilings	16	-7
Delek Oil	1490	0
Destiny	1062	0
Digal	1228	0
Dirom1	1400	0
Dolev	360	2.6
Dolev Bond A	145.1	0
Dolev warrant 1	19.3	7.8
Domicar	461	0
Domicar Bond	163.2	0
Dor Berger	270	1.9
Dor Chim	330	0
Dor Energy	1283	-2
Dorc w1	41.6	0
Dorea	50.6	0
Dorf c1	100	0
Dori Engineering	472	0
Dori Engineering Bond A	145	0
Dovrat Bond A	145.1	-0.6
Dovrat Shrem	1395	4.9
DSL	630	0
Dubek M	2.8	0
Dubek S	3	0
Duniz	230	-0.4
DYG Industries	430	0
E & M Computing	1200	1.7
Edgar Albeni	49.6	0
Edgar Industries	200	-3.8
Edgar Inv. Bond C	86.6	0
Edgar Inv. Warrant 5	17.2	-1.7
Eltar Bond A	88	0
Eml	152	0

	LAST	CHANGE*
Eltam	350	0
Eltoman	3630	6.4
El Bad	2260	0
El Canit	435	0
El Canit Bond 1	168	0
Elad	468	0
Elad Bond A	178	0
Elad Bond B	150.8	0.5
Elad c3	75	0
Elad w5	15	0
Elbit Computers Bond B	135	0
Eldan Tech	160	-5.9
Electronics Line	699	0
Elgar	7000	0
Elltech Ind.	890	0
Elkam	290	0
Ella	275	0
Ella Bond A	146.8	-0.1
Elran	4860	2.3
Emek	183	1.1
Emyle	900	4.7
Engel Const.	530	-0.7
ESE	1488	-3.5
Eshed Robotech	215	0
Even	500	0
Evrois Warrant 1	1243	0
Excellence	1450	0
Export Inv.	780	0
Extra	135.9	0
Feldman	78.4	0
Feldman Bond A	157.5	0
Feldman Ind.	250	0
Feuchtwanger 1	7400	0
Feuchtwanger 5	31600	1.9
Fidelity	2350	0
Five J Jewelers	371	0
Five J Jewelers Bond 2	137	0
Formica Source	100	0
Frutarom	360	2.3
Gaheket	10700	-0.5
Galcom	93.5	0
Galran	1350	0
Gama	139	0
Gamatronic	545	-5
Gambit	3080	0
Gan ShmuelBond A	111.1	0
Gan ShmuelWarrant 3	389	1.3
Gan Shmuel	1307	-3.9
Ganel Hadar	490	0
Gap Development	125	0
Gap Holdings	200	0
Gap Warrant 2	2.1	0
Gazit	700	9.4
Gazit Bond C	194	-2.8
Gibor Bond 1	65	0
Gibor Bond A	87	0
Gibor Sabrina	62	0
Gibor Sport	694	0
Gibor Warrant 2	92	0
Gilboa	54	0
Gilo	180	0
Gilrat	1861	3.2
Givot Olam Oil	110	0
Glob Fit	821	0
Golan	450	0
Gold	375	0
Golden House	512	0
Golden House Bond 1	0	0
Golex	217	0
Granit Bond	153	-0.5
Granit Bond 2	160.6	-0.6
Green Software	91	0
Greenberg	1499	2
H. Electronics	48.2	0
H. Mer	815	-4.6
Habas	3480	0
Habas Bond 1	135	0
Hadar 1	30600	0
Hadar 5	112000	0
Hadar Ins. 1	640	-3
Hadar Ins. 5	2780	0
Hadarim Bond1	118.4	0
Hadarim Warrant1	940	0.6
Hagal	439	0
Hagal Bond B	165.2	-1.1
Ham-Let	1250	0
Hamaker	159.3	0
Hanal	5	-5.7
Hasin Esh	887	0
Hason	280	0

	LAST	CHANGE*
Hatehof 1	174	0
Hatehof Bond A	152	0
Hayal	1200	0
Hayal Bond2	110	-21.4
Hayal Warrant 1	77.5	0
Hed Arzi Music	247	-3.1
Hiron 1	10150	0
Hiron 5	36000	0
HL Service Bond 2	195	0
HL Service Bond 3	154	0
HL Services	2390	0
Hod	108	1.9
Hof	920	0
Holit	170	0
Hydrolics	115	0
IES Industries	220	4.8
IES Warrant 1	22.4	-22.5
Ilan Gat	118	0
Ilan Gat Bond A	153.7	0
ILDC Bond 6	288	-0.4
ILDC Hotels	310	0
ILDC Hotels Bond 1	0	0
ILDC Hotels Warrant 2	109	0
ILDC Insurance	373	4.8
ILDC Insurance Bond A	145	1.4
Imco	905	0
Ind Bld Warrant 3	21	0
Ind Bldgs R1	2.4	4.9
Ind.Dev.Bank C	337	0.6
Ind.Dev.Bank CC	3350	0
Ind.Dev.Bank CC 1	3370	-2.3
Ind.Dev.Bank Pref	1366	-0.4
Independence Mort	42000	-3.9
Intercosma	1050	0
Intergamma 1	2290	0
Intergamma 5	11700	0
Inventech	555	-2.3
Iscal	1045	0
Ispro	5600	0
Ismocolor	420	5
Israel Corp. 5	142100	1.5
Israel Lighterage Bond 3	148.1	0
Israel Wire & Cables Bond C	190.2	0
Israfom	1135	-5.4
Israfom Bond C	88	0
Issamco	2.6	0
Issta 1	6780	0
Issta 5	29600	-1.3
ISTA LINES	2540	0
Itay	2300	0
Itay Bond 1	80	-0.1
Itay Warrant 1	360	0
Jafora Bond A	185	0
Jaysour	157	-1.9
Jaysour Bond A	119.6	0
JEC Bond B	97	0.5
Jerusalem Mort	196	0
Jerusalem Mortgage Bond 16	173	0
Jeuressa	30.2	0
JOEL	690	7.1
JOEL Bond 1A	244	0
JOEL Bond 2	131	0
JOEL Bond A	255	0
JOEL Warrant 3	2.5	-3.8
Kadmani	119	-0.8
Kadouri	729	0
kalnca bond b	91.6	-0.5
kalnca warrant 1	72.5	0
Kalrit	1100	0
Kalkalit Bond A	93	0.3
Kalkalit warrant 2	133.3	0.2
Kamour	343	0
Kamour Bond G	137.1	0
Kamcept	911	-0.9
Kanaf Warrant G	1	0
Kanicol	30	0
Kanicol Bond A	42.7	0
Kardan 1	525	0
Kardan 5	2620	0
Katz	126	0
Katz Bond A	60.5	0
Kedem Chemicals	2810	0
Kenitex	516	0
Kesher	803	-0.2
Kesher Bond A	154	0
Keter	622	0
Kind	14.2	0
Kind Bond A	33	0
King	224	0.9
Kinneret	169	0

	LAST	CHANGE*
Kioch Kirur	170	0
Klahrei Teuda	1132	0
Kital	220	0
Kital Bond A	172.1	0
Kital Bond A	90	0
Kli Ind. 5	6890	-0.1
Koor Bond 5	145	-0.7
Kopel	333	0
Kopel Bond 1	251	0
La Nationale Bond A	151.5	0
La Nationale Pref	125	0
Lachish	2400	0
Lamont	610	0
Lapidot Oil Exploration	1	0
Lapidot Oil Explorers	60	0
Lasers	380	11.8
Laviav	593	0
Laznick Bldg	449	0
Laznick Comm Ctrs	138.6	0
Laznick Commercial Centres Bond	143.5	0
Laznick Ind Bldgs	310	0
Laznick Industrial Bldgs. Bond A	149	0.3
Leader	926	-0.4
Lego	437	0
Leumi Warrant 5	41.6	5.6
Leventhal	650	0
Levi	484	0
Levi Bond A	145.2	0.2
Levi Bond B	91.5	0
Levi Warrant 2	31	0
Levinstain Bond A	328	0
Levinstain Warrant 2	4450	0
Levinstein	3210	0
Liber	329	9.7
Lidan	1445	-0.3
Lifshir 1	165	0
Lifshir 5	490	0
Ligad	253	-2.7
Ligad Bond 1	162.2	0
Lighterage 1	830	0
LIMS	245	0
Lipman	2950	3.1
Lipski	3600	2.9
Lipski Bond A	182.2	-3.4
Liraz	2820	4.1
Liraz Bond A	146.[illegible]	0.3
Lodan	11[illegible]	5.1
Lodzia 1	1255	0
Lodzia 4	4700	0
Luhot Gali	19	0
Luhot Gali Bond 1	139.4	0
Lumir	2800	-2.4
Ma'ariv Bond A	142.7	0.3
Maabarot	1130	0
Macpell	460	0
Macpell Bond A	144	0.7
Macpell Bond B	133.7	0
Macpell Bond C	74.9	0.1
Macpell Warrant 3	20	0
Mafil	399	0
Magam	150	0
Magam Bond A	191	0
Magam Bond B	132.1	0
Magav	130	0
Magma	212	0
Magor 1	1645	0
Magor 5	7400	0
Magor hldgs. Bond B	84	0
Magor hldgs. Warrant 2	312	0
Malal	238	0
Mall	76.5	0
Malio	460	-8
Man	59	0
Man Bond A	240	0
Mantur	29.3	0
Marathon	89.9	0
Marathon Insured	104.6	-0.4
Mario Laznick Constr. Bond 1	179	0
Mario Laznick Constr. Bond 2	160	0
Maritime Bank	1220	0.8
Maritime Bank Bond B	148.6	-0.2
Mashav	698	-1.7
Mashbir	561	0
Mashov	432	2.4
Mashov	295	-1
Matam	1549	0
Matav Warrant 1	1275	-5.6
Mazama 1	375	0
Mazama 5	1403	0
Mazpak	759	5.4

	LAST	CHANGE*
Med. Hotels	33.9	0
Mediterranean	535	0
Mediterranean Bond A	145	0
Mediterranean Bond B	83.3	0
Mediterranean Warrant 2	40	-25
Meerson	57.5	0
Menger	1975	5.1
Mer Extra	1397	-1.6
Mer Extra Bond B	0	0
Merkaz	264	0
Messadar Bond B	99.1	0
Messaron Warrant 3	37	0
Metalseal	251	0
Metrotem	34	0
Metzerah Ins 5	6750	0
Mexaz	566	0
Mezah	1396	0
Migdal	113	0
Middle East Tube	199	0
Middle East Tube Bond A	114.5	-0.6
Middle East Tube Warrant 2	1	0
Mivtah Bond A	139	-0.4
Mivtah Bond B	79.5	0
Mivtah Warrant 2	56	0
Mivtah	144	3.4
Mivtah Inv.	133.9	8.6
Mob Line	357	0
Mofet	12310	-2.1
Mofet	160	3.2
Mofet Bond A	138	-0.6
Mofet	60	0
Mashkal	19	0
Mohgal Bond B	58	0
Mohor Bond 2	155	0
Mohor Mahol	340	0
Molam	125	0
Molash Shamir	1150	0
Molash Inv.	9940	-1.5
Molash warrant 2	99.2	5.7
MPI Engineering	101	0
MPI Engineering Bond A	116	0
Mugrat	770	0
Mugrat	1	0
Mufet	179.1	-1.5
Mufet Convertible Bond AAA	215	0
Mufet	580	0
Mure Plastic Ind.	353	-6.9
Mushlam Inv.	162	0
MVN Computers	295	-9.2
Mvn Finance	670	0
Mvtz Semey	333	0
Nachmeen Fund	36	0
Naama	12.6	1.3
Naama Oil Exp.	24.5	0
Nafcor	550	0
NATIVA ECAD A	108	0.2
Navigator	229	0
Navigator Preferred	910	0
Nechushtan Bond B	77	-1.1
Nechushtan Prop	155.9	0
Nechushtan Properties Bond A	145	-0.7
Nechushtan Warrant 1	80	0
Negev Ceramics	186.3	0
Nehushtan 1	472	-8.3
Nehushtan 5	2600	0
Neot Avi	7000	0
Nesua	421	0
Neve Ativ	165	0
Nexim Hotels	964	0
Nexus	632	0
Nia	241	0
Nice	510	-1.6
Nice	1595	2.1
Nicron	555	0
Nikol	242	0
Nilit	1630	0
Nilit Instrum	78.3	0
Nirlon	13.8	0
Nirlon Tech	500	0
Nirosh	679	0
Nirosh Bond A	151	0
Nir	63	0
NIP	1200	0
Oceana	222	0
Oct	990	0
Opc Bond A	191.3	-0.1
Opc Bond C	31.6	0.2
Opc Warrant 2	750	0
Optima	495	0
Orad	39	0
Ofer Bro	6700	0
Orbit	950	0
Orgatal	61	0
Orgaltex	568	-2.1
Oil Fields	53	5.3
Ormat	250	0
Ormat	255	0
Ormetech	110	0
Osem	279	-7.3
Osem Trans	240	0
Osem Investment	69	0
Osnat	143	0
Ossem	3690	0
Ossem	500	0
Ossem Bond A	170	0
Ofek	739	-1.4
Ofer	2430	-5.8
Ofer Bond 1	185.5	0
Ofek	500	0.2
Ofek	111.2	0
Ofer	1	0
Ofer Bond A	92.5	0
Ofer Warrant 2	48	0
Ormat Industries Bond D	135	-1.1
Ormat Industries Warrant 5	9.3	32.9
Ormat	285	0
Ormat Nevelim	2650	0.9
Oz	139	0
Oz Bonds	378	0
Packer Steel	5700	0
Paltrade	160	2.6
PAM	354	-5.4
Pama	695	0
Pamas	2290	11.2
Pan Dor	280	0
Paradox	600	0
Paradox Bond A	42	0
Passport	1500	-6
Pas Chen	530	0
PCE	980	1.6
Pdahim Investment	36.4	-3.9
Peled	131	0
Penivale	211	0.5
Pevzner Ins 5	1320	0
Pico Plast	226	0
Pilat	92.5	0
Pimco	130	0

	LAST	CHANGE*
Pimtos Bond A	145	0
Pinkas	404	0
Plasson bond a	101.5	0
Plasson warrant 1	325	3.8
Plasto Sac	544	0
Plasto Sheck Bond A	88.6	-0.4
Plasto Sheck Warrant 2	69	17.6
Poalim Inv. Bond 3	99.3	0.2
Poalim Inv. Warrant 3	1950	0
Poalim Investments Bond A	140	0
Polak	220	-7.6
Polgat A	375	1.4
Polgat B-1	1440	1.5
Polygon	2000	0
Porat	205	-1.9
Port	115	0
Poseidon	90.6	2.1
Pri Haemek	21	0
Pri Haemek Bond A	35.1	0
Pritzker	192	0
Pritzker Bond A	162.5	0
Profit	540	0
Prot Bond A	138.5	0.4
Psyton	469	-0.2
Quality Cap Mkts	400	5.3
Rabinex	215	0
Ram Bar	69	0
Ramgar 1	170	0
Ramgar 4	455	0
Rapak	2070	0
Rapax Bond A	160	0
Rassco	1400	0
Ratio	1	0
Ray Car	178	0
Ravad	143	4.4
RDC	899	0
RDC Bond A	150.5	0
Red Sea Hotels	105	2.2
Regency	105	0
Regency Bond 1	128.5	1.6
Regent Bond A	156	0
Rehab.	400	0
Reshef	55	0
Reshef Bond B	115	0
Rencro	755	0.7
Ragasim	1929	-0.4
Ragasim Bond A	84	0
Ragasim Warrant B	459	14.8
Reshet-Gh	430	0
Rosebud	90	0
Rosencul	95	0
Rotem	246	0
Rotshtein	120	0
Rotshtein Bond A	139.8	-0.1
RSL	660	-0.9
Saad Elec Bond A	101.5	-0.5
Sagiv Prop. Bond 1	92.9	0
Sahar Bond 3	94.5	-1.3
Sahar Dev	2590	9.3
Sahar Securities	580	0
Sahar Warrant 1	990	0
Sanbasol	320	0
Sano 1	2850	0
Sano 5	14100	0
Scope	1179	2.6
Scope Bond A	94	-1.1
Scope Warrant 2	86	-12
Sea Trade	482	0
Secom	272	2.3
Securitas	880	0
Securitas Bond A	180.2	0
Selen	1180	0.2
Seraton	365	0
Shaked	328	0
Shamir	578	0
Shanyah	900	0
Shel	208	0
Shekel	220	0
Shekel Bond A	156	0
Shekem	69	1.4
Shekem Bond 1	153.2	0.1
Shelag	109	-9.9
Shem Tov	305	0
Shemen	11500	0
Shiduch	66	0
Shimshi Angel	5800	0
Shira 20	86.6	0.1
Shira 2	192	0
Shirra	750	1.4
Shirra Bond A	159.6	0
Shiro	500	0
Shlang	86	0
Shufersal	412	-8.4
Shufersal Bond A	146.9	0
Sindy	593	0
Sinai Bond 2	154.1	0.1
Solel Bone Bond A	109.9	-0.1
Sol Boneh	495	15.7
Solog	799	0
Solemon	576	0
Solomon Bond A	80	1.3
Solomon Holdings	370	-2.6
Solomon Warrant 2	59	0
South Pipe	353	0
Sparx	175	0
Spectrum 1	1214	-0.2
STG	1053	0
STG Bond A	116.1	0
Suntrop	2910	0
Sury Electronics	719	-5
Surgitool	172	0
Sundale Bond A	151.1	0
Suntec	309	-3.9
Tadir	137	-4.9
Tadmit Bond B	50	0
Tadmit Warrant 2	56.6	0
Tadiran	200	0
Tadiran Appl	498	0.2
Tal	130	0
Tal Bond 4	39	0
TAP Bond 1	285	0
Tashtiot bond a	121.5	0
Tashtiot warrant 2	184.1	0
Tashtiot	0	0
Tashtiot Bond A	156.6	0
Tashtiot Bond B	146.4	0
Taste of Israel	178	0
TAT 1	435	0
TAT 5	1351	-2.7
Tat 5	926	0
Tbea Comm. 1	337	1.2
Team Computers	5500	1.7
Technoplast	667	2.5
Tegea	1340	0.6
Tefaa Bond A	109.2	0
Tefaa Warrant 1	136	-2.9
Tefahot Preferred	166900	0

	LAST	CHANGE*
Telan	1639	0
Telder	577	-1.7
Telex	1159	-0.1
Telex Warrant 1	300	0
Tene	198	0
Teuza	182.5	0.2
Teuza Ireland	194	8.1
Tibon Yosi	132.6	9.6
Tim Warrant 3	530	0
Tiv	369	0
TMM	143.3	0
Tobuss	1663	0
Tom	1050	0
Topline	530	0
Topline Bond 2	169	-0.1
Topper	45.2	0
Tosaf Compounds	378	0
Trade	374	0
Trade Bond A	215	0
Trend Line	1600	0
Trocadero	36	0
Trystikal	513	0
Tsabar	195	0
Tsarfati	599	0
Tsarfati Bond A	154.2	-0.3
Tsur	150	2.7
Tsur Bond A	259	0.4
Tsur Bond B	120	0.8
Tsur Bond C	100.4	0
Tsur Preferred	155	0
Tuttnauer	900	0
Tzmecha	486	0
Ubeid	36	0
Unibar 1	754	0
Unibar 5	784	0
Unico	4500	0
Unicorn 1	92.6	0
Unicorn Bond 1	300	0
Unidress	2070	0
United Steel	135	-9.2
United Steel Industries Bond 1	159.9	0
Unvercoil	920	-2.7
Unsan	279	2.6
Vardinon	26000	0
Vardinon Bond A	168.7	0
Vardinon Convertible Bond AAA	154	0.7
Videomentx	28.7	0
Vilar	444	0
Vilar Bond 1	161	0
Vis Food	1200	0
Viliger Bond A	156.5	0
Vitalgo	365	0
Vitalgo Bond A	133.8	0
Vulcan	491	0
Will Bond A	87	0.2
Will Warrant 1	225	0
Woolfman 1	500	4.8
Woolfman 5	2120	0
Woolson	67000	0
Ya'ana	871	0
Yaacobi	114.4	-9.9
Yaad Bond A	186.8	0
Yaad Bond B	80.6	0.7
Yaad Industries	328	0
Yaad Warrant 3	80	0
Yad	490	0
Yamit	186	0
Yarden	432	7.5
Yarden Bond 2	135	0
YDPZ	270	0
YDPZ Bond A	158.2	0
Yeda	1580	0
Yehuda	209	0
Yesh Gad	38.7	0
Yhsal	1620	0
Yhshal Warrant 1	355	-8.7
Yona Bond A	164.1	0.1
Yona Hotels	198	0
Yozma	432	0
Yuval	124	3.3
Zafrir	565	0
Zanes Holdings	54.5	0
Zarfati Bond B	90.2	0
Zarfati Warrant 2	26	0
Zal	78	5.4
Zehavi	130	0
Zeller Ablagon	417	0
Zeller Ablagon Bond A	157.5	0
Zeller Ablagon Bond B	117	0
Zeller Inv Bond A	83.6	0
Zeller Inv. Warrant 1	3.5	0
Zika 1	565	0
Zika 5	2540	0
Zikit 1	2750	0
Zilkit 5	10100	0
Zinomegal	540	0
Zion Cables I	236	-2.7
Zion Holdings	14900	6.4
Zion Textiles	230	0
Tiv	205	0
Zohar	278	0
Zoko	367	0

Due to President's Day, the US stock market was closed yesterday

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Russia crisis sparks reform soul-searching

By BRIAN KILLEN

MOSCOW (Reuters) – Faced with the grim prospect of political oblivion after last August's financial collapse, Russia's liberal reformers are searching their souls and trying to explain how it all went so tragically wrong.

After seven painful years in which the economy has staggered from one crisis to another, public faith in monetarist, free market policies is at an all-time low. But the reformers argue that their recipes are right – if only they had been followed.

"We didn't break with the Soviet Union. We didn't change the state machinery," former deputy prime minister Boris Fyodorov told Reuters.

Fyodorov, a staunch defender of monetarist policies in various Russian governments since Yegor Gaidar launched radical reforms in 1992, was adding his regretful voice to a debate which has been raging among liberals in recent weeks.

The debate was sparked by a long article by former foreign trade minister Pyotr Aven, published on January 27 in the leading business daily Kommersant. The conclusion drawn by Aven was that Russia never actually implemented liberal reforms.

"We never had liberal economics and we do not have them now," wrote Aven, a member of Gaidar's team of reformers who were dubbed "the Chicago boys" because of their monetarist views, or "the boys in pink pants" because of their youth.

Aven said another popular myth was that the crisis, which peaked six months ago, represented the collapse of these reforms.

"I take responsibility along with the others for what has happened," he said.

"Unless we have a frank discussion about what was done, about all the mistakes and compromises of those who entered the government to carry out market reforms, the liberal idea in Russia has no chance of recovering any time soon."

The prospects for Russia's beleaguered liberals returning to power in the near future are indeed bleak, although former prime minister Sergei Kiriyenko and others are now forming blocs to participate in forthcoming elections.

Most people blame the reformers for a deep recession that has lasted a decade, leaving more than 40 million people below the poverty line, according to the state statistics committee.

Since the August 17 debacle, the most well-known reformers have been swept from the government and Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov has installed a communist, Yuri Maslyukov, as his first deputy in charge of the economy.

The Communist Party, which dominates the State Duma lower house of parliament, is rampant and looks set to at least repeat that performance in a December parliamentary election.

President Boris Yeltsin, weakened by the crisis and his own ill health, is a shadow of his former self and many of the reformist principles which he fought for have been discredited.

The government is now preaching state intervention to prop up ailing domestic industries and socially oriented policies.

Even those who cheered Yeltsin in 1991, when he defeated a hardline communist coup attempt, now seem disenchanted.

Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov leads surveys on who should be the next president in 2000, but he faces probable strong competition from the likes of Moscow mayor Yuri Luzhkov.

"How can anyone speak of reforms now? What a question," said Volodya, a pensioner shovelling snow round the base of a statue of Marshal Zhukov, the leading Soviet World War II hero.

Volodya said he earned just 1,700 roubles ($74) a month.

"I could never survive on my pension, so I have to do this," he said. "It's easier in summer when we work on the lawns."

Aven, who now heads Russia's Alfa-bank, presented a scathing account of what went wrong in the 1991-1998 reform experiment.

Backing up his view that liberal policies, such as lowering taxes and controlling state spending, were never tried, he said: "That wonderful liberal Sergei Kiriyenko intended to raise the tax burden by 13 percent on average, bringing the effective taxation rate to 68 percent of GDP. That is surely a world record."

Foreign trade, he admitted, was liberalized, compared with the days of Soviet monopolies, but it was still riddled with anti-market anomalies such as a system of "special exporters" through which all oil exports were channeled.

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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates)

Currency (deposit for:)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar ($250,000)	4.770	4.800	5.090
Pound sterling (£100,000)	5.550	5.540	5.620
German mark (DM 200,000)	2.180	2.280	2.700
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.060	0.190	0.560
Yen (10 million yen)	—	—	—

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (15.2.99)

	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS Buy	Sell	BANKNOTES Buy	Sell	Rep. Rates**
Currency basket	4.3681	4.4386	—	—	4.3912
U.S. dollar	4.0280	4.0930	3.96	4.14	4.0510
EU euro	4.5386	4.6119	—	—	4.5582
German mark	2.3205	2.3580	2.29	2.39	2.3306
Pound sterling	6.5637	6.6696	6.46	6.76	6.6043
French franc	0.6919	0.7031	0.68	0.71	0.6949
Japanese yen (100)	3.5225	3.5794	3.47	3.62	3.5348
Dutch florin	2.0595	2.0928	2.03	2.12	2.0684
Swiss franc	2.8443	2.8902	2.80	2.93	2.8570
Swedish krona	0.5107	0.5190	0.50	0.53	0.5132
Norwegian krone	0.5278	0.5364	0.52	0.54	0.5304
Danish krone	0.6105	0.6204	0.60	0.63	0.6131
Finnish mark	0.7633	0.7757	0.75	0.79	0.7666
Canadian dollar	2.6994	2.7430	2.66	2.78	2.7138
Australian dollar	2.6152	2.6574	2.58	2.69	2.6288
S. African rand	0.6586	0.6705	0.59	0.68	0.6616
Belgian franc (10)	1.1251	1.1433	1.11	1.16	1.1299
Austrian schilling (10)	3.2983	3.3515	3.25	3.40	3.3128
Italian lira (1000)	2.3440	2.3819	2.31	2.41	2.3541
Jordanian dinar	5.6653	5.7567	5.42	5.92	5.6976
Egyptian pound	—	—	1.15	1.23	1.1894
Irish punt	5.7628	5.8558	5.68	5.94	5.7880
Spanish peseta (100)	2.7277	2.7717	2.69	2.81	2.7395

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Foreign financial data courtesy of
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Monica's unlikely aftermath

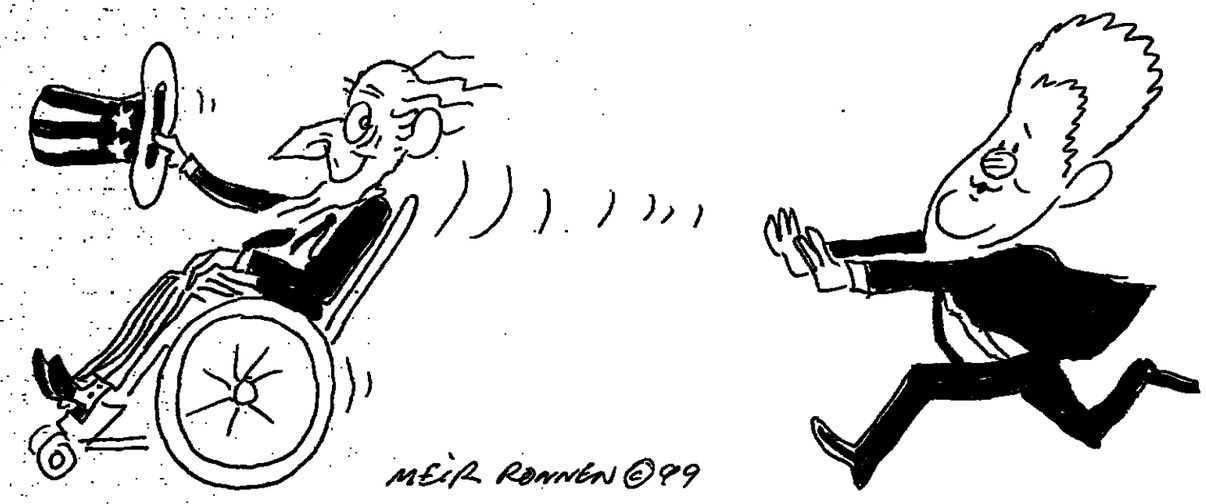
Democrats and Republicans seem ready to join forces in reforming the US federal retirement system

By DINA TEMPLE-RASTON

WASHINGTON – Now that the impeachment process has ended, leaving Republican prosecutors as well as President Bill Clinton with a tarnished image, some see a chance for all concerned to help themselves with voters by joining to fix a pesky problem: Social Security.

"We have a unique set of circumstances. The president wants to bolster his image and the Republicans haven't exactly distinguished themselves over the past year," Robert Reischauer, former director of the Congressional Budget Office, said as senators wrapped up the trial. "Cooperating on an important national issue" could help both parties.

Clinton wants to steer his place in history from charges stemming from his relationship with a former intern. The Republican-led Congress, for its part, has seen its public approval ratings fall – to 36 percent from 45% in a recent CBS poll.



Republicans also aim to barter a Social Security fix for tax cuts. "By the end of this Congress we want a tax cut the American people can put in their pocket," House Speaker Dennis Hastert said on NBC's *Today* show on Tuesday. "But we have to do Social Security first."

Clinton last month began a process that analysts said could lead to setting aside a portion of the federal budget surplus for the federal retirement system, expanding personal retirement accounts invested in the stock market, and linkage to targeted tax cuts.

He proposed shifting 62% of the budget surplus to Social Security and permitting the federal government to invest 25% of that money in the stock market to avert a shortfall as the baby-boom generation retires.

Social Security is on track to start in 2012 paying more in benefits than it collects in taxes. Clinton wants to find a way to prevent the system from running out of money by 2032 without having to raise taxes or cut benefits.

Under Clinton's plan, the portion of Social Security funds invested in the stock market over the next 15 years would amount to roughly $675 billion. That's more than the $508b. that Fidelity Investments now has in stock markets, and well below the $1.12 trillion that state and local retirement plans have invested in the markets.

Private sector managers would bid for the trust-fund business and would likely decide how to invest the money in a basket of index funds deemed eligible for the Social Security fund investment. The Clinton administration is still working out the details of the plan.

For the most part, Republicans refrained from attacking the Democratic president's plan. "Everyone basically agrees" on setting aside part of the surplus for Social Security, said Larry Neal, spokesman for Texas Republican Senator Phil Gramm. "People are holding their fire generally because we're trying to engage and get this done."

A tough blast came from US congressional auditors last week when David Walker, comptroller general at the General Accounting Office, the investigative arm of Congress, said Clinton's plan would just extend funding for the system, not reform it.

Clinton aides say his plan is just a starting point. "Real structural reform to the system is needed, that's not in his plan, and the president has said that," said Janet Yellen, chairman of the president's Council of Economic Advisers. "The president hasn't specified how to make those changes because we thought it would be more useful to do that in a bipartisan way" with Congress.

She said she doesn't know of any administration proposals for a structural overhaul of the system currently circulating.

TROUBLE is, there's no way to tinker with Social Security without targeting some group. The elderly depend on benefits and are a powerful voting constituency. Baby boomers like Clinton don't want smaller benefit checks in their golden years. And younger workers could face higher taxes to pay for their parents' retirement.

The American Association of Retired Persons alone packs a powerful punch. The group represents 32 million seniors, the largest US voting bloc, and has 15 lobbyists and 60 legislative issue researchers in Washington to fight any erosion in benefits.

Even on this front, Neal says, there's been progress. "If you had told me a year ago that we could have a civil conversation with AARP about Social Security reform, that would have met with uproarious laughter," he said. "But we've been having very cordial conversations with them. They don't always agree with us but the discussions are friendly. That's a big deal."

Clinton and Congress have about six months to come up with a Social Security fix, analysts say. After that, Republicans and Democrats won't be able to agree because it will be too politically sensitive so close to the 2000 election, said Evelyn Morton, AARP's legislative representative.

"There is an opportunity to make progress," Morton said.

"Whether the president's plan will be the basis for a compromise or whether they actually will cut benefits, or match funds is still unclear. It is still early. They will have to make some tough choices."

Representative Bill Archer, a Texas Republican who heads the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee, was more upbeat.

Clinton's plan, while far from perfect, could be the "framework of a plan in which I believe we can make progress," Archer said yesterday.

CLINTON has some leverage. He appears ready to give Republicans some of the smaller tax cuts they seek if they find common ground with the White House on Social Security.

Republicans are eyeing targeted tax breaks, including relief from taxes on interest and dividends and reductions in the so-called marriage penalty, which boosts the tax burden on couples once they tie the knot.

The 10% tax cut Republicans want are not likely to fly, analysts say. "It is going to be extremely hard" to enact a deep across-the-board tax cut, said Rachelle Bernstein, who tracks congressional tax policy for Arthur Anderson & Co.

Instead, the strategy is likely to be making room for a Social Security fix and tax relief. Archer repeatedly asked Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin if the system could be repaired for less at a congressional hearing last week, opening the door to a possible compromise.

Tax cuts wouldn't help Republicans repair their image with voters unhappy over the partisan row over Clinton's impeachment, recent polls suggest. A recent NBC/*Wall Street Journal* poll found 45% of Americans in favor of dedicating the surplus to Social Security. Only 22% favored tax cuts.

"Whether you're a Democrat or Republican, there's one thing that we agree on unanimously," said Senator Mitch McConnell, a Kentucky Republican. "We all have impeachment fatigue." That's why Henry Aaron, a scholar at the Brookings Institution, gives Social Security overhaul a better-than-even chance this year. "Republicans and Democrats need some good news to rally around – a South Lawn triumph," he said.

"The president has made clear he's pinned his flag to maintenance of the Social Security system," Aaron said today.

"And I believe the majority of Americans will support him."

(Bloomberg)

Ericsson: More than just cellular phones

STOCKHOLM – When Ericsson AB unveiled its new cellular phone at an earnings conference two weeks ago, analysts, investors and journalists bolted from the room in a rush to call their offices.

That enthusiasm illustrates a problem for Sweden's biggest company by market value. Its biggest business – selling switches and base stations for cellular networks – brings in twice the revenue and is twice as profitable as phones, but investors see Ericsson mainly in terms of its rivalry with Finland's Nokia Oyj, which makes phones that are more popular with consumers.

"One should view Ericsson as an infrastructure company, not a phone company," said Kurt Forsberg, an analyst at Aros Securities.

Ericsson's stock price hasn't performed as well as companies which focus more on a single business such as Nokia, the world's No. 1 mobile phone maker, or Lucent Technologies Inc. of the US, the world's biggest maker of network switches and equipment. Nokia, which gets about 60 percent of its revenue from phones, has seen its stock triple in the past year.

Ericsson, with 25% of its revenue from phones, has risen 28%. Lucent, which gets about 66% of its revenue from switches, has seen its stock double in value.

Boosting the stock price is just one challenge for Ericsson executives, who are now reorganizing to cut costs and give investors a clearer idea of how they manage their business. The stock is up 3% so far this year, beating a 2% decline in Stockholm's OMX Index, but lagging an 8% rise in Nokia.

Under its old structure the company didn't disclose profit for its three divisions, which comprised fixed-line networks, cellular networks and phones. In announcing the restructuring it said if the new units were in place the phone business would have a 7% operating profit margin, while the network business would have a 13% operating profit margin.

COMPANY FOCUS

The Stockholm-based company is trying to raise awareness about the diversity of its businesses so investors "understand what Ericsson really is," said Chief Executive Sven-Christer Nilsson. Among other things, it's allowing the press to attend meetings with analysts.

Greater awareness about Ericsson's diversity could forestall swings in the stock such as occurred last July after the company said phone sales had stagnated in the second quarter, and shares fell 13% in a day.

"The focus on phones boosts the volatility of the stock," said Christian Hall, chief analyst at Den norske Bank in Stockholm.

Especially when compared with its Nordic neighbor. Nokia passed Motorola Inc. last year as the most popular maker of cellular phones, claiming a 23% market share compared with Motorola's 20% and Ericsson's 15%. Nokia sales rose on strong demand for its lighter, sleeker phones in the US and Europe, while Ericsson and Motorola struggled to get new digital models on the market.

A more reliable indicator of Ericsson's fortunes is its network switching business, which covers both cellular and fixed-line phone systems, analysts said. Under the reorganization the company is merging the fixed line and cellular businesses into one unit called Network Operators, which will account for about 62% of the company's revenue. The phone business, to be renamed Consumer Products, provides about 25% of revenue.

That disparity in revenue shows that investors who buy and sell Ericsson stock based on the phone business are missing a bigger story. Ericsson is the world's No. 2 maker of network equipment after Lucent, and the biggest supplier of Global System for Mobile (GSM) communication equipment, the standard used across Europe.

GSM networks worldwide had 113 million subscribers in September last year, a number that is growing by 5 million users a month, the company estimated.

Ericsson said more than 75 million, or about 40%, of the world's wireless phone subscribers are connected to its systems, and that its networks connect some 120 million phone lines worldwide.

Even though Ericsson wants investors to focus more on its network business, it remains committed to developing newer, sleeker and more powerful cell phones. Its new T28 will debut in mid-1999 as the world's slimmest cellular phone, offering a slew of functions like games and speech recognition.

"The phones are what end up in consumers' hands and what shareholders look at," said Johan Carlstroem of Fischer Partners in Stockholm. "The cellular network business is where the company makes the most money."

But not the most buzz. Ericsson stock has gained 12% since the new phone was presented, while Nokia has dropped 8% in the same period. That's because investors tend to buy the stock of either Nokia or Ericsson as new products are released, said Paris-based Manuel Chaves de Oliveira, manager of CPR Gestion's multimedia fund. (Bloomberg)

Building Blocks

By Jessica Steinberg

COMMERCIAL
Central Region

■ A recent survey of office buildings for the hi-tech sector within a 20-km. radius of Tel Aviv showed a lower vacancy rate in Ra'anana (9 percent) and Rehovot (8%) compared with Kfar Sava (38%), southern Netanya (35%) and Rosh Ha'ayin (12%), according to Natan Real Estate. All the surveyed buildings were either independent or part of hi-tech industrial parks. All included central air conditioning and parking arrangements.

The average rent in existing buildings within all five areas is $11.60 a meter compared to $11.40 a meter in buildings under construction, according to Natan's figures. The rents in Ra'anana were the highest of the five areas surveyed, at $14.75 a meter in existing buildings. Buildings in Kfar Sava commanded the next-highest rents, at $11.80 a meter, followed by $11.60 a meter in Rehovot, $10.36 a meter in Rosh Ha'ayin and $9.70 a meter in southern Netanya.

While management fees in all five areas were relatively low, the building quality was lower than that of buildings within a 10-km. radius of Tel Aviv, particularly compared to buildings in the hi-tech industrial zones of Herzliya Pituah and Ramat Hahayal.

■ A nine-floor office building is being constructed in Ramat Gan on Rehov Bezalel off the Ayalon Highway. The 6,000-sq.m. building includes eight floors for offices and three parking floors accommodating 100 cars. The offices will be sold in 300-sq.m. areas, at $2,400 a meter.

■ Bank Hapoalim recently rented a 200-sq.m. space in Power Center 2000 in Rishon Lezion, to be used as a 24-hour customer service business center for its on-line customers. Power Center is a three-floor structure with 1,000 sq.m. still available for rent at $18 to $25 a meter.

RESIDENTIAL
Modi'in

■ In the Dankner Region project, 105 apartments have been sold for a total of $19 million. There are 33 apartments still available in the 21-building project, which is laid out on 30 dunams of land and includes two parks. The apartments range from three to four rooms, and have varying size porches. A three-room, 93-sq.m. apartment with a 24-sq.m. porch is priced at $158,000 while a four-room, 118-sq.m. apartment with a 24-sq.m. porch is $189,000. A four-room, 118-sq.m. apartment with a 180-sq.m. yard costs $205,000. Each apartment includes a parking space and storeroom.

BEN-AMI

Continued from Page 1

With four spots in the top 10 already reserved (No. 1 for Barak, 2 for Shimon Peres, 7 for party secretary-general Ra'anan Cohen, and 9 for a woman), and 10 more spots up to the 25th allocated to different groups (women, regions, Druse, Arab, moshavim, new immigrants, etc.), the race between the other 45 candidates (out of a total of 83) running on the national list was fierce.

Some candidates were fighting for a place within the top five, some were fighting for the slots allocated to their group, and others were simply fighting for political survival.

It was clear that at least four current MKs will not be returning to the Knesset next season. Shevah Weiss, who along with Ori Or, Ophir Pines-Paz, and Elie Goldschmidt, is considered a borderline case, said he had no sense of where he stood. "I have no indication of my position, but I will wait and see and take it in a gentlemanly way. I have gone through harder things in my life."

Meanwhile, although political pundits were wary of making any predictions, especially after their failures in the Likud elections, several names expected to be posited high up the list kept recurring. In addition to Beilin, Ben-Ami, and Uzi Baram, others mentioned as possibly making the top five were newcomer Vilna'i, Avraham Burg, and Haim Ramon.

Besides wanting to know who was out and who was on top, party members worried over whether Barak – despite his denials – would intervene and alter the lineup if certain segments of the party were not elected to realistic positions. (For example, would he parachute a Russian immigrant into a top spot, or give Lahiani, who lost a mayoralty bid in Bat Yam, the 11th spot).

Added pressure came from the continued reports of lists of preferred candidates being reputedly coming from Barak and Shimon Peres.

Nevertheless, most of the candidates refrained from openly bad-mouthing Barak as long as the polls had not closed, apparently for fear it could affect their chances. Today, however, the complaints are likely to be aired.

Among the gripes are the fact that while they invested considerable effort – and money – running, others would be parachuted in to good positions at their expense.

Some Labor candidates have reportedly suggested that if Barak insists on bringing Lahiani in, it should be in a lower position such as the 26th or 27th, to guarantee he makes the extra effort to attract the voters he promised, as it could make the difference between his getting a Knesset seat or not.

Barak would have to get any outside appointments approved by the party central committee, and he could face a very stiff fight unless the proposed person can clearly contribute to attracting a large number of voters.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, providing his own analysis, said that any list the party chose was of little consequence.

"Any list will be like the same lady with a change of clothes," he told reporters in Kalansuwa. "We wish them many more years in the opposition, but if there is a chance of broadening the coalition, we will certainly consider it. If that happens it will not be the make up of the list that is of importance, but rather the policy of the party. I always believed that we need to reach the final-status agreement, which is to mold our future, with the largest possible front."

Barak repeated as a mantra that primaries open to all party members "are a celebration of democracy unparalleled in any other party. And I'm sure we will come out with a good and winning team."

He told a radio interview that "I will face the next elections, in three months time, as the head of a broad movement, a bloc of parties, movements, and figures which will be called One Israel, and together we will lead to a change in the country.

"Believe me, there will be no one happier than the Labor MKs on the day we change this government... I'm sure all the problems being discussed [by the media] will be solved in accordance with Labor Party rules."

He said he had not intervened in the primary elections, but did not deny his support for Sofa Landver as the immigrant representative. "The immigrants are 20% or 25% of the population and it's very important they are represented on the list. That's why I said it," he said.

Svetlana Alexandrova reacted by saying that this was gross intervention, and said the immigrant candidate should be a recent arrival and not someone who came 20 years ago. Alexandrova is considered closer to Peres.

If neither is elected, and Ethiopian immigrant MK Adisu Massala gets back on the list, Barak will have to bring in a representative of the immigrants from the former Soviet Union in a safe slot.

Most of the candidates spent the day running up and down the country in a frenzied race to get to as many polling stations as possible. It was less a case of "if it's Monday, it must be Hadera" and more a matter of "if it's 2 p.m., it must be Ra'anana."

But not only the candidates had a tough time. Party members complained that the lottery-like forms on which they had to mark their preferred candidates were difficult to understand. Apart from listing between nine and 11 candidates, they could also choose from among them five for the top slots and their preferred regional candidate.

ANALYSIS

Continued from Page 1

It must be stressed that the reserved slots were not all for non-competing VIPs. Some of the most brutal races were in local contests for seats reserved for regional representatives. In many of them, two serving MKs slugged it out against each other, which means that one of them will find himself off the list. Thus in the central region MKs Rafi Elul and Avi Yehezkel engaged in a no-holds-barred bout. MKs Yona Yahav and Yossi Katz jousted for the Haifa seat (23rd). Locked in savage combat for the immigrants' slot were MKs Sofa Landver (Barak's favorite) and Adisu Massala.

MKs who lost specific slots, or those who failed in the costlier and riskier (though more prestigious) national race, will be unceremoniously sent home. In short, there is no way the new Labor list can too closely resemble its predecessor. Even those not forced into early retirement suffered setbacks if they just slid down. Those higher-ups who did not emerge at the top of the heap are sure to squawk.

Barak needs to hope that the most prominent of the bunch were not pushed so low that they may be tempted to join ex-Laborites Nissim Zvilli and Haggai Merom in the Center Party.

According to the arrangement Haim Ramon insisted upon, voters will be asked to mark the names of five candidates whom they consider leadership material. These front-runners will get extra points. It will be interesting to see if Ramon benefits from his own ploy. He is quite unpopular in some party quarters, but Barak campaigned hard for him and Ramon's name headlined all the "recommended lists" attributed to Barak.

Not to forget, Labor insiders insist adamantly that there were also such lists from the still-to-be-reckoned-with Peres. This raises the now routine question: Will Peres sock it to the party leader yet again?

The more things change in Labor, the more they stay the same.

DUTCH

Continued from Page 1

The hearings, broadcast live on TV, uncovered few new facts, but generated sympathy for victims, and suspicions about unknown hazardous substances in the cargo of the plane.

These suspicions seemed to be confirmed in the second week, when the committee heard that an El Al employee warned Schiphol about "poison and explosives" in the plane. Civil aviation officials and Schiphol employees were accused of suppressing this information at the request of El Al.

In the third week, however, other witnesses said the warning was a mistake.

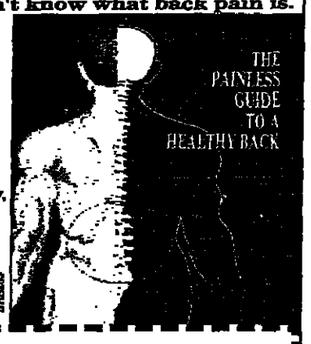
The cargo was perfectly harmless, they said, and officials were aware of this.

The contents of the plane are less clear than ever. Committee chairman Theo Meijer intends to clear up the matter in the course of this week, he said.

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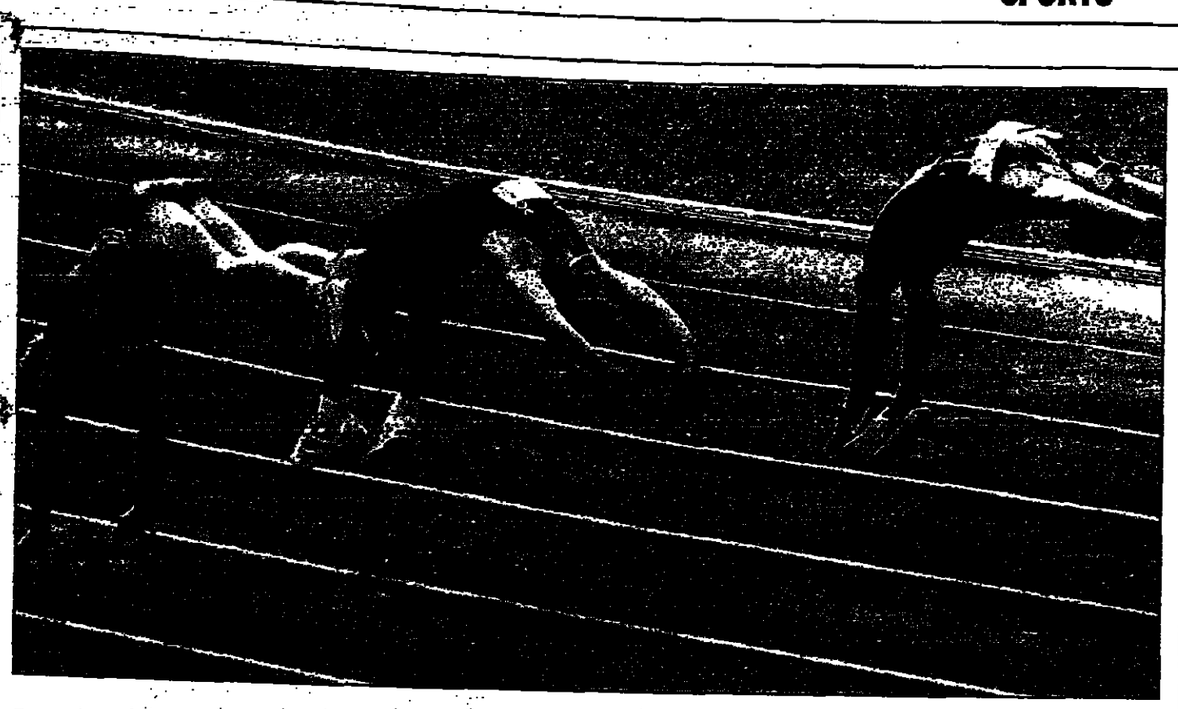
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Beyond the fringe

Participants compete in the 100m 'dash' during a Fringe Games exhibition in Wellington, NZ. The runners have to flip themselves down the track via a set number of handsprings, cartwheels, and a straight sprint. The games proper are set for the summer in Christchurch.

(Reuters)

Hapoel Jerusalem hoopsters hoping eight is enough

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

It may be enough for an octave, but Hapoel Jerusalem fans are wondering whether eight will be enough to reach the quarterfinals of the Saporta Cup when Effy Birnbaum's club takes on Pinturas Badalona tonight in Spain, bringing an eight-point lead into the match-up (Channel 1, 21:30).

That bulge is courtesy of last Wednesday night's 81-73 Malha triumph in the first leg of the home and home series. But based on both that game and the team's performance vs. Holon Sunday night, Birnbaum has to be wondering just which Hapoel Jerusalem will show up: the no-defense, plodding offense first-half team, or the second half outfit that in both games displayed smothering defense and a knack for getting the ball to the open man.

Jerusalem found out several things in the first contest: they cannot let the Spaniards sail down court like a hardcourt armada as they did last week, resulting in easy fast-break hoops that let Pinturas open a big first-half. They also can ill afford to keep their eyes off Aaron Swinson, the dazzling Pinturas small forward who sweeps in for easy baskets and offensive rebounds almost unnoticed.

Papi Turgeman will have to keep a careful eye on Ivan Corrales, the Badalona point guard who runs their offense with such aplomb and gave Hapoel fits in the first half. It became apparent in the second half that the Spanish lack a consistent outside game; Hapoel should let Corrales and the rest of the Spanish guards shoot from outside as much as they like. Birnbaum's players must also put their bodies on the line in defense and under the boards against the Spanish big men, or run the risk of absorbing those fast break hoops Pinturas specializes in.

The good news it that digging themselves out of holes both in game one vs. Pinturas and vs. Holon Sunday night has built Hapoel's character. It's also unlikely that Derrick Hamilton will again get into foul trouble so early, or that Pinturas will hit an uncanny 85% of its first half shots, both of which occurred at Malha. However, playing before what is expected to be a full house in Spain, Jerusalem will have to get another outstanding game from Kenny Williams, who will be hard-pressed to match his 25-point performance from last Wednesday night.

Erez Katz's fine performance vs. Holon is likely to earn him more minutes tonight, but he'll have to avoid the mistakes that resulted in several turnovers vs. the speedy Spaniards.

Look for Doron Shefa to try to assert himself again on offense as Jerusalem looks to hold the fort without the injured H Waldman, due back to practice this week.

Jerusalem should benefit from not going into the game with too big a lead, knowing they can ill afford to relax. While Israeli basketball teams have a long history of suffering in Spain, a win tonight could erase all that, and add yet another accomplishment to an already impressive Jerusalem season.

Sacchi quits Atletico Madrid

MADRID (Reuters) – Italian coach Arrigo Sacchi resigned as coach of Spanish first division Atletico Madrid yesterday and quit the game.

"From now on I am no longer coach of Atletico Madrid and I am no longer a football coach," Sacchi told a news conference.

Sacchi's position was under threat following a run of three successive league defeats. He was appointed in May 1998 on a two-year contract.

Earlier this season Sacchi announced that he planned to retire from the game at the end of the 1999/2000 season, when his contract at Atletico was due to expire.

Philippoussis wins Sybase Open

SAN JOSE, Ca. (Reuters) – Blasting mid-court winners while dominating the center of the court, big Mark Philippoussis crushed qualifier Cecil Mamiit 6-3 6-2 on Sunday to win the $350,000 Sybase Open.

Philippoussis, who with the victory tied his career high ranking of No. 13, frequently forced the counterpunching American up-and-comer deep behind the baseline in an attempt to retrieve his pounding forays.

After benefiting from a second round default by Andre Agassi and then knocking off veterans Mark Woodforde and Michael Chang, Mamiit had hoped to become the first qualifier to win the tournament, but he never found the range. Still but the 22-year-old moved up from 120 to 86 in the rankings.

FIFA backs Arsenal replay decision as debate rages

By MITCH PHILLIPS

LONDON (Reuters) – FIFA on Monday backed the decision to replay the English FA Cup tie between Arsenal and Sheffield United but the debate about the controversial Highbury goal seems set to run and run.

British newspapers were full of the story with most, but not all, observers supporting the replay decision.

And it wasn't just the sports pages showing an interest, with editorials in several papers discussing the decision in relation to the concept of fair play and players' position as role models for youngsters.

"Beau Geste" was the headline on an editorial in the *Daily Telegraph* congratulating Arsenal's French manager Arsene Wenger.

Arsenal won Saturday's fifth round match 2-1. But the 76th minute winner came when Sheffield United players had been expecting to be given the ball back after they had put it out of play to allow a player to receive treatment.

Instead, Arsenal's new Nigerian signing Nwankwo Kanu crossed for Dutchman Marc Overmars to score. The goal caused uproar, with United manager Steve Bruce briefly taking his players from the pitch in protest.

Within minutes of full time Wenger offered to replay the fixture, Sheffield United agreed and the Football Association sanctioned the replay, at Highbury, on February 23.

FIFA, world soccer's ruling body, gave its backing to the FA yesterday but said that there were no plans to change the laws to prevent a repeat of the incident. UEFA has also praised Wenger for his "fair play".

Overmars claimed the goal was a result of debutant Kanu not understanding the unwritten law about returning the ball to the opposition. But the Dutch international, who ran 40 meters into the box to score, appeared at least as much to blame as Kanu.

"The replay is a good plan," said Overmars. "I just didn't think. It was a mistake and here is a chance to do something about it."

Kanu said he was aware of the tradition of giving the ball back and agreed he had made "a big mistake".

"The Sheffield United players were very upset with me and maybe a replay is the best way," he said.

Arsenal defender Martin Keown said the decent thing had been done and the whole squad were behind the decision to replay.

"There are no ulterior motives and it was an uplifting decision," said Keown. "I only hope people will see it as a heartfelt response rather than a public relations exercise."

However, Philip Don, the premier league referee's spokesman, said a very dangerous precedent had been set.

"Whatever one may think about the rights and wrongs of what happened, no laws were broken when the goal was scored and it should stand," said Don.

Bruce came under fire from some quarters for calling his players from the pitch. The former Manchester United center back stood by his actions, saying there would have been no replay if there had not been such a vehement protest from United.

Arsenal have halved the cost of tickets for the replay but ignored calls for profits from the game to be donated to charity.

Ironically, Arsenal suffered from a similar situation two seasons ago when Blackburn Rovers striker Chris Sutton chased down a ball being returned to Arsenal after an injury.

His pressure forced Nigel Winterburn to concede a corner, from which Blackburn scored a late equalizer. The two lost points meant Arsenal finished third instead of second and missed out on a place in the European Champions' League.

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Looking for an encore

What can Yankees do after spectacular 1998 success?

Of all the New York Yankees' incredible accomplishments last season, maybe none was as difficult as the task that looms as they gather this week for spring training. One year after a record-setting world championship run, they have to try to do it all over again.

It's never been as difficult to win back-to-back World Series as it has been the past 20 years. Only the Toronto Blue Jays, in 1992 and 1993, have done it since the Yankees defeated the Los Angeles Dodgers in the 1977 and 1978 World Series.

That said, the Yankees enter spring training seemingly as prepared to repeat as any team in the modern era. Twenty-four of the 25 players who were on their World Series roster, and 34 of the 38 players who logged time with them during the season, are scheduled to be in camp.

Tim Raines is the only notable absence from a club that compiled a staggering won-lost record of 125-50, including an 11-2 postseason run.

Although the action of spring training itself is a generally unreliable barometer of the upcoming season, the Yankees know there are legitimate indicators of potential doom, specific pitfalls they must avoid during their six weeks if they are to reproduce in any form their success of a year ago.

Perhaps most importantly, the Yankees have to avoid complacency.

Their maniacal focus and attention to detail kept them grinding long after they had wrapped up the AL East title. It was the single greatest quality of the team, the trait that allowed them to dominate opponents so thoroughly. The Yankees did not have one player with 30 or more home runs, yet they scored more runs than any other team in baseball.

So driven were the Yankees that it was glaring when they did not play at top levels of intensity. One of those moments came late in the season in Tampa, when Manager Joe Torre sternly reminded his players that "no one can just turn it on."

The angry talk by Torre was as rare as the lapse that prompted it.

Instead, Torre spent most of his time providing praise, offering up hosannas such as the memorable line from the news conference he conducted hours before the Yankees were done sweeping the World Series from the Padres. That afternoon in San Diego, the manager referred to his team's "inner conceit." His players knew all year long that they were good, Torre said, but they were determined to prove it only with actions and never with words.

Almost as important for the Yankees this spring is that they remain healthy. Aside from Darryl Strawberry's continuing attempts to recover from colon cancer, the health question that will hold the Yankees' attention is that of David Cone's 36-year-old right arm.

After an extremely slow start and a brief contemplation of retirement last year, Cone rebounded from offseason arm surgery to win 20 games and serve as one of the team's major inspirational leaders.

However, late in the year, Cone's arm began to show signs of wearing down.

Anyone who doubts the Yankees' fears should consider their refusal to offer him a multiyear contract to his liking. The Yankees have good insurance in Ramiro Mendoza, but their rotation falls into place much better – maybe even the best in baseball – when Cone is pitching consistently well.

The Yankees also have to avoid controversy, which, like the specter of injury, is an unpredictable yet potentially destructive phenomenon.

Largely because of Torre, the Yankees avoided the fractious behavior that has marked so many of George Steinbrenner's teams, but The Boss is still the boss, and so you never know.

(Newsday)



NEAR MISS – Rangers' Wayne Gretzky shoots wide left in an attempt to tie the score in 4-2 loss to the Red Wings. Gretzky missed the opportunity to break the professional record for career goals. (Reuters)

Red Wings hold off Rangers' late charge

NEW YORK (AP) – Steve Yzerman had a goal and an assist and Petr Klima scored in his first NHL game in two years to lead the Detroit Red Wings to a 4-2 victory over the New York Rangers Sunday.

Detroit goaltender Chris Osgood made 29 saves, holding off a late charge by the Rangers.

Sergei Fedorov and Nicklas Lidstrom also scored for the Red Wings. Marc Savard and Brent Fedyk scored for New York.

The Rangers, 1-4-0 in their last five, dropped six games below .500 for the first time this season. The Red Wings improved their Central Division lead to 11 points over St. Louis.

Flyers 4, Avalanche 4

John LeClair's league-leading 35th goal gave him 400 career points and also helped give visiting Philadelphia a tie.

The Flyers blew their second 3-1 lead in as many games before LeClair scored at 8:43 of the third period. Eric Desjardins, Daymond Langkow and Keith Jones added goals for the Flyers.

Adam Foote, Valeri Kamensky and Peter Forsberg each scored for Colorado, which is winless in its last three games after winning 12 in a row.

Mighty Ducks 5, Coyotes 1

Steve Rucchin scored two goals and Guy Hebert made 37 saves as visiting Anaheim continued its mastery over the Coyotes.

It was Anaheim's fifth victory in six games and kept the Mighty Ducks undefeated in four games (2-0-2) this season against Phoenix.

Detroit 3 0 1–4
N.Y. Rangers 0 1 1–2

First Period–1, Detroit, Fedorov 15 (Yzerman, Shanahan), 1:12. 2, Detroit, Yzerman 22 (Shanahan, Murphy), 6:31 (sh). 3, Detroit, Klima 1 (Larionov, Kozlov), 14:36. Second Period–4, New York, Savard 8a (Fedyk, Stevens), 12:40. Third Period–5, New York, Fedyk 3 (Schneider), 4:30. 6, Detroit, Lidstrom 10 (Yzerman, Fedorov), 19:33 (en). Shots on goal–Detroit 13-8-9–30. New York 11-10-10–31. Goalies–Detroit, Osgood 24-13-2. New York, Richter, Cloutier. A–18,200 (18,200).

Philadelphia 2 1 1 0–4
Colorado 1 1 2 0–4

First Period–1, Colorado, Hejduk 7 (Kamensky, Miller), 6:59 (pp). 2, Philadelphia, Desjardins 11 (Lindros, Jones), 7:46. 3, Philadelphia, Langkow 10 (Hull, McGillis), 15:21. Second Period–4, Philadelphia, Jones 15 (Brind'Amour, Renberg), 7:01. 5, Colorado, Foote 3 (Kamensky, Lefebvre), 13:27. Third Period–6, Colorado, Kamensky 13 (deVries, Donovan), 5:01. 7, Colorado, Forsberg 16 (Drury, Sakic), 6:00. 8, Philadelphia, LeClair 35 (Lindros, Dykhuis), 8:43. Overtime–None. Shots on goal–Philadelphia 8-8-7-2–25. Colorado 10-15-4-2–31. Goalies–Philadelphia, Vanbiesbrouck. Colorado, Roy. A–16,061 (16,061).

Anaheim 1 1 3–5
Phoenix 0 0 1–1

First Period–1, Anaheim, Selanne 26 (Sandstrom), 3:54. Second Period–2, Anaheim, Rucchin 19 (Sandstrom, McInnis), 6:24. Third Period–3, Anaheim, Drury 3 (Tinka, Green), 4:54. 4, Anaheim, Rucchin 20 (Sandstrom, McInnis), 14:42. 5, Phoenix, Corkum 7 (Hansen, Ditsuck), 15:36. 6, Anaheim, McKenzie 3 (Drury, Marshall), 19:13. Shots on goal–Anaheim 7-5-15–28. Phoenix 11-14-13–38. Goalies–Anaheim, Hebert. Phoenix, Waite. A–16,210 (16,210).

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	28	12	13	69	170	113
New Jersey	30	18	6	66	158	137
Pittsburgh	29	15	7	65	163	136
N.Y. Rangers	20	26	7	47	140	147
N.Y. Islanders	16	33	6	38	129	168
Northeast Division						
Ottawa	29	16	8	66	152	115
Toronto	30	20	3	63	172	161
Buffalo	25	18	10	60	143	113
Boston	22	23	9	53	136	127
Montreal	21	27	8	50	128	147
Southeast Division						
Carolina	25	21	9	59	145	141
Florida	20	20	13	53	132	142
Washington	22	27	4	48	133	137
Tampa Bay	11	38	4	26	107	194

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	29	23	4	62	185	141
St. Louis	21	22	9	51	141	139
Nashville	19	30	5	43	123	171
Chicago	15	32	6	36	121	173
Northwest Division						
Colorado	29	21	5	63	149	134
Edmonton	21	24	8	50	145	138
Calgary	19	28	6	46	137	161
Vancouver	18	29	7	43	140	165
Pacific Division						
Dallas	32	10	8	72	147	103
Phoenix	29	14	10	68	141	109
Anaheim	22	23	9	53	142	133
San Jose	20	22	12	52	126	124
Los Angeles	20	30	4	44	128	146

'Who's your daddy?' gets Knight's goat

NCAA BASKETBALL

EVANSTON (AP) – Bob Knight, the king of profane outbursts, was offended.

Chants of "Who's your daddy?" got him hot. Or was that "Hoosier daddy" that Northwestern students were directing at the Indiana bench? Knight didn't care. He just didn't like it.

So once his Hoosiers won 69-62 in overtime Saturday, he pointed to the scoreboard and repeated the same chant to the bleacher section nearest the bench, one filled with students and band members.

"I just asked them: 'Who's your daddy now?'" Knight said.

Moments later, Knight angrily confronted Northwestern coach Kevin O'Neill at midcourt where coaches usually meet after games.

Knight lectured O'Neill about the crowd and O'Neill took offense. The Wildcats coach grabbed Knight's trademark red warmup before Knight ripped his arm away. O'Neill was intercepted by an Indiana assistant coach. The whole exchange lasted seconds.

Less than an hour after the game, Knight and O'Neill cooled off and made peace.

Knight tried to downplay what happened, choosing to praise Northwestern's strong season, O'Neill and center Evan Eschmeyer.

"This is great for Northwestern if that end of the floor would take a course in English etiquette," Knight said.

"Crowds get like that," O'Neill said. "I didn't hear anything. If our crowd said something out of line, I'd be upset."

"Who's your daddy?" is not an uncommon cheer in college basketball, although its meanings are open to interpretation.

Sometimes parentage is involved; sometimes it's a generic put-down.

And, in the case of Indiana and "Hoosier daddy," there may have been some wordplay at work.

Stanford students chanted it last year at Arizona guard Mike Bibby, who had a strained relationship with his father, Henry Bibby.

This season Stanford's student section yelled "Deadbeat daddy" at Connecticut guard Khalid El-Amin, a father.

It appears Knight chose to interpret the chant in its most literal way. And the Indiana coach insists it has no place in college basketball.

College Basketball Top 25

	Record	Pts	Pv
1. Duke (59)	23-1	1,763	2
2. Connecticut (12)	20-1	1,712	1
3. Auburn	22-1	1,602	6
4. Cincinnati	21-2	1,528	3
5. Michigan St.	20-4	1,514	8
6. Stanford	19-4	1,415	4
7. Maryland	20-4	1,378	7
8. Kentucky	19-6	1,141	5
9. UCLA	17-5	1,110	13
10. Arizona	16-4	1,082	10
11. St. John's	18-6	1,065	9
12. North Carolina	19-6	979	12
13. Ohio St.	17-6	975	15
14. Utah	18-4	839	20
15. Wisconsin	19-5	733	11
16. Miami	15-5	581	25
17. Indiana	18-7	425	21
18. Syracuse	16-7	420	16
19. Iowa	15-6	392	14
20. Coll. of Charleston	21-2	381	22
21. Purdue	16-7	313	18
22. Minnesota	14-6	252	18
23. Florida	16-5	238	–
24. Kansas	16-6	205	–
25. New Mexico	17-6	149	17

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Samsung 'absolutely committed' to Games

SYDNEY (AP) – South Korean conglomerate Samsung remained "absolutely committed" to supporting the Olympic movement, according to Sydney 2000 organizing president Michael Knight.

Knight was responding to a report from Seoul that Samsung's $50 million sponsorship of the Olympics was in doubt because of the IOC corruption scandals.

Samsung Electronics' sports marketing senior manager Kim Se-hun was quoted by *The Sydney Morning Herald* yesterday as saying, "We believe the recent scandals present some danger to sponsorship. We need to evaluate the reports before making decision," Kim reportedly said.

Samsung is a worldwide partner of the Olympics, placing it in the company of firms such as Coca-Cola and Visa.

Kuwait denies offering coaching post to Maradona

KUWAIT (Reuters) – Kuwait denied yesterday making an offer to Diego Maradona to coach its national side.

"True, we are searching for a new coach for our national team but Maradona is not among the proposed names to fill the job," Sheikh Ahmad al-Fahd al-Ahmad al-Sabah, head of Kuwait's soccer federation and president of the Olympic Council of Asia, told Reuters.

He was responding to remarks by the former Argentine striker to a local radio station in which he said: "There is a very big chance that I will direct the Kuwaiti team."

Argentina's 1986 World Cup-winning captain had a short and unsuccessful career as a coach in Argentina after ending his playing career.

NBA box scores

San Antonio 17 27 18 27–89
Chicago 11 25 23 17–76

SAN ANTONIO (89) Duncan 4-12 6-10 14, Elliott 5-8 0-0 12, Robinson 5-10 12-17 22, Jackson 0-6 1-1 1, Johnson 6-16 0-0 12, Ellis 4-11 3-3 13, Kerr 4-5 0-0 11, Kersey 1-8 1-2 3, Daniels 0-0 0-0 0, Gaze 0-0 0-0 0, King 0-0 0-0 0, Williams 0-0 1-2 1. Totals 29-78 24-35 89.

CHICAGO (76) Bryant 2-3 0-0 4, Kukoc 11-24 3-3 27, Lang 2-10 0-0 4, Harper 4-15 1-2 9, Barry 2-6 2-2 7, Brown 3-6 0-0 6, Simpkins 0-1 2-4 2, Booth 1-2 0-0 2, Wennington 2-6 1-2 5, Carr 4-7 0-0 8, LaRue 0-0 0-0 0, Benjamin 1-2 0-0 2, David 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 32-82 9-13 76.

Fouled out–None. Rebounds–San Antonio 65 (Duncan 14), Chicago 47 (Kukoc 11). Assists–San Antonio 19 (Duncan 4), Chicago 20 (Kukoc 8). A–22,385 (21,711).

Milwaukee 18 24 23 17–82
Orlando 19 22 18 28–85

MILWAUKEE (82) Robinson 7-17 0-0 15, Hill 2-4 1-3 5, Johnson 3-5 3-4 9, Brandon 8-18 1-1 20, Allen 4-13 0-0 8, D.Curry 4-6 0-0 11, M.Curry 2-4 0-0 4, Gilliam 1-5 2-2 4, Del Negro 2-4 0-0 4, Traylor 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 35-78 7-10 82.

ORLANDO (85) Grant 5-7 0-0 10, Outlaw 2-5 0-0 4, Austin 2-9 3-4 7, Anderson 4-13 5-6 13, Hardaway 8-20 2-3 18, Armstrong 2-8 2-4 6, Dolesc 3-6 3-3 9, Harpring 5-10 3-5 15, Strong 1-3 1-2 3. Totals 32-79 19-27 85.

Fouled out–None. Rebounds–Milwaukee 46 (Hill 9), Orlando 53 (Outlaw 10, Hardaway 10). Assists–Milwaukee 19 (Brandon 6), Orlando 20 (Hardaway 6). A–15,914 (17,248).

Atlanta 15 17 21 17–70
Philadelphia 25 19 24 10–78

ATLANTA (70) Ellis 3-9 3-4 9, Henderson 4-14 4-8 12, Mutombo 5-7 1-2 11, Smith 5-13 2-2 14, Blaylock 5-13 0-0 10, McLeod 0-2 0-0 0, Johnson 0-1 2-2 2, Long 0-3 1-2 1, West 0-0 0-0 0, Gray 4-14 0-0 11. Totals 28-76 13-20 70.

PHILADELPHIA (78) Lynch 4-7 0-0 9, Ratliff 2-6 4-4 8, Geiger 3-9 5-5 11, Iverson 11-23 10-10 32, Snow 1-3 5-6 7, Benjamin 0-1 0-0 0, Grant 1-4 0-0 2, Hughes 0-5 3-6 3, Thomas 2-5 0-0 4, Mohammed 1-3 0-0 2, McKie 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 25-66 27-31 78.

Fouled out–Smith, Ratliff. Rebounds–Atlanta 51 (Henderson 8), Philadelphia 51 (Snow 8). Assists–Atlanta 15 (Blaylock 7), Philadelphia 11 (Snow 6). A–13,307 (20,444).

Dallas 26 19 22 25–92
Vancouver 25 18 32 20–96

DALLAS (92) Nowitzki 2-7 2-2 6, Green 4-9 1-3 9, Walker 7-9 0-0 14, Finley 4-13 1-2 9, Nash 7-11 0-1 18, Trent 4-8 1-2 9, Bradley 2-5 6-8 10, Pack 3-5 0-0 6, Davis 0-4 0-0 0, Caballos 3-6 0-0 7, Strickland 1-3 2-2 4, Williams 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 37-80 13-20 92.

VANCOUVER (96) Abdur-Rahim 9-17 8-8 24, Smith 0-0 5-6 5, Massenburg 5-8 0-0 10, Mack 9-19 0-0 26, Bibby 4-11 2-2 10, B.Reeves 2-8 2-2 6, West 0-3 2-2 2, Wheat 4-8 0-0 9, Chilcutt 0-2 0-0 0, Sasser 0-1 0-0 0, Herrera 2-4 0-0 4. Totals 35-81 17-19 96.

Fouled out–None. Rebounds–Dallas 52 (Bradley 10), Vancouver 45 (Smith 8). Assists–Dallas 18 (Nash 9), Vancouver 22 (Bibby 10). A–18,059 (19,193).

Indiana 26 25 25 25–101
L.A. Lakers 26 26 27 21–99

INDIANA (101) D.Davis 3-8 4-6 10, Mullin 2-5 2-2 7, Smits 5-11 5-8 18, Jackson 3-4 3-4 10, Miller 6-13 12-13 26, A.Davis 4-8 3-5 11, Croshere 0-3 2-2 2, Perkins 1-3 0-0 2, Rose 5-10 1-2 11, Best 2-7 0-0 6. Totals 31-89 33-42 101.

L.A. LAKERS (99) Knight 2-4 0-0 4, Bryant 6-12 5-6 18, O'Neal 16-30 4-7 36, Jones 4-12 3-4 12, Fisher 2-6 0-0 6, Harper 2-6 0-0 5, Fox 5-11 0-0 10, Campbell 0-2 3-4 3, Blount 2-2 1-1 5, Rooks 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 39-85 16-22 99.

Fouled out–Knight. Rebounds–Indiana 45 (A.Davis 9), L.A. Lakers 54 (O'Neal 17). Assists–Indiana 16 (Jackson 7), L.A. Lakers 28 (Fisher 8). A–17,505 (17,505).

Portland 28 25 13 20 8 6–100
Golden State 23 26 19 18 8 11–105

PORTLAND (100) Grant 1-6 0-0 2, Williams 4-13 0-0 11, Sabonis 8-15 7-10 23, Rider 8-15 5-5 17, Stoudamire 6-14 5-6 12, Jackson 2-4 4-4 9, Wallace 8-18 0-0 16, Cato 1-3 2-2 4, Anthony 0-2 0-0 0, Augmon 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 36-90 23-27 100.

GOLDEN STATE (105) Calloy 5-13 1-2 11, Mills 5-11 2-2 13, Dampier 4-12 1-2 9, Starks 6-18 4-5 18, Delk 3-11 0-0 6, Marshall 5-12 2-4 14, Cummings 8-14 7-8 24, Jamison 2-8 0-2 4, Bogues 3-8 2-2 8, Farrell 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 40-106 19-29 105.

Fouled out–Wallace, Starks. Rebounds–Portland 61 (Sabonis 17), Golden State 73 (Dampier 15). Assists–Portland 22 (Rider, Jackson 5), Golden State 28 (Bogues 9). A–10,847 (19,200).

Minnesota 26 23 24 22–95
L.A. Clippers 22 17 26 18–73

MINNESOTA (95) J.Smith 7-10 0-1 14, Garnett 9-17 6-8 24, Garnett 1-3 2-2 4, Foster 5-8 0-0 12, Mcilvaine 6-13 0-0 13, Hammonds 0-1 0-0 0, Brandy 4-8 3-3 11, Mitchell 0-5 4-4 4, Jackson 1-4 2-2 4, Patterson 1-2 0-0 2, Jordan 0-0 0-0 0, Grant 1-2 0-0 2, Curley 1-1 0-0 2, Carr 1-2 1-2 3. Totals 37-76 17-21 95.

L.A. CLIPPERS (73) Murray 5-10 2-4 12, Taylor 6-18 7-7 19, Olowokandi 3-5 0-0 6, Piatkowski 3-8 0-0 6, Martin 2-7 0-0 4, Wright 0-1 0-1 0, Rogers 2-6 1-2 5, Nesby 3-6 2-4 9, Robinson 1-7 0-0 2, Douglas 0-3 0-0 0, Richardson 0-2 0-0 0, Closs 1-2 2-2 4. Totals 28-78 14-20 73. Fouled out–None. Rebounds–Minnesota 49 (Garnett 11), L.A. Clippers 49 (Murray 6), Assists–Minnesota 21 (Mcilvaine 9), L.A. Clippers 10 (Richardson, Martin 2). A–8,592 (16,021).

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CRITICS' CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AIZENSTADT

Lorin Maazel conducts the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra in Mahler's Fourth Symphony with exceptional coloratura soprano Laura Aikin as soloist. In the first part of the program, Maazel makes his local debut as a violinist playing works by Bartok and Kreisler as well as his own violin concerto.

Tonight and Thursday at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv and tomorrow at the Jerusalem International Convention Center, at 8:30 p.m.

The Hubermann Quartet hosts members of the New Israel Woodwind Quintet in a special program featuring quartets by Schubert and Webern, the Schubert Octet and Richard Strauss's *Till Eulenspiegel* arranged by Hasenhörl. Tonight at the Tel Aviv Museum (8:30), tomorrow at the Israel Museum, Jerusalem (8 p.m.), Friday in Megiddo (9 p.m.) and Saturday at Kibbutz Yagur (11 a.m.) and at Haifa University (8:30 p.m.).



Violinists Guy Braunstein (R) and Yehonatan Berick with (seated) violist Gilad Karni and Zvi Plesser on cello are the Huberman Quartet. (Christian Steiner)

ENGLISH THEATER

HELEN KAYE

Jean-Paul Sartre's *No Exit* premiered in occupied Paris in 1944. It deals with three souls in hell whose punishment is each other's company as they relive their past for eternity. Kate Brody's Hadassah Center Stage Theater presentation of *No Exit* continues tonight and through Thursday at 8 p.m at Mercaz Hamagshimim. Info: (02) 561-9165.

And the Haifa English Theater's production of *The Odd Couple – female version*, with the gals replacing the guys in the story of a neatnik and a slob who share an apartment, continues at the Haifa Museum of Art today at 5:30 p.m and on Thursday at 8:30 p.m.

RADIO

VOICE OF MUSIC

6:05 Chopin: Scherzo no 1 in B minor; Puccini: Symphonic Prelude in A; Schumann: Konzertstück for Piano and Orchestra op 92; Donizetti: Aria from L'elisir d'amore
7:07 Mozart: Piano Concerto no 17 K453; Hindemith: Symphonic Metamorphosis on a Theme by Weber
8:05 Haydn: String Quartet op 20/4; Britten: Matinées musicales op 24; Leoncavallo: Duet and Aria from Pagliacci; Liszt: Mephisto Waltz no 1
9:05 Mozart: Divertimento for 2 Clarinets and Basset Horn K439/3; Stradella: L'anima del purgatorio; Martin: Petite symphonie concertante; Brahms: Piano Quintet in F minor op 34; Rodrigo: Concierto d'Aranjuez; Reger: Variations on a Theme by Beethoven
12:00 Light Classical – dances by Dvorak and Brahms
13:00 Artist of the Week – Ferenc Fricsay, conductor (35 years since his death 20.2.1963). Stravinsky: The Rite of Spring (Berlin RSO / 1951); Strauss: Don Juan op 20 (RIAS SO)
14:06 Music from Far and Near
15:00 From the Recording Studio – Lior Eitan, piccolo / Hezi Kruitoro, piano / Ori Shoham and Avihai Ozeroy, flute. Damaré: The White Raven for Piccolo and Piano; Musgrave: Piccolo Games for Piccolo and Piano; Daniel Gallay: 7 Doubts for Solo Piccolo; Lev Kogan: Polka for Piccolo and Piano; Telemann: Quartet in D minor for Piccolo, 2 Flutes and Piano
16:00 My Concert
18:00 New CDs – Bach: Magnificat; Mozart: Piano Concerto no 11 K413; Britten: Curlew River
20:05 Patrice Placidis: Tale for Orchestra (1977); Margrice Tzarina: Excerpts from Carmina Antiqua; Dukas: La Péri (fanfare & poème danse) for Orchestra; Rimsky-Korsakov: Scheherazade; Rimsky-Korsakov: Capriccio espagnole / from Snow Maiden
22:00 Sounds from Around the World

RADIOWEST

CNN news on the hour followed by RadioWEST local news
6:00 Morning Drive with Marc Berman (until 9:00)
7:45 Sports Update
8:08 Lions Trust Financial Update
9:00 Morning Brunch with Sharon Wagner
13:00 Memory Lane
15:00 Afternoon Drive with Dr. G (until 18:30)
17:45 Sports Update
18:30 Newsmakers with Mordechai Twersky
19:00 Moondance with Donna Abraham – Mellow Rock
22:00 West Rock
1:00 Late Night Music with Hack

BBC WORLD SERVICE

6:00 The World Today
7:00 The World Today
8:00 The World Today
9:00 World News
9:15 Outlook
9:55 My Century
10:00 World News
10:05 Performance
10:20 Off the Shelf: Captain Corelli's Mandolin
10:35 Discovery
11:00 World News
11:05 The Moonstone
11:20 Inspiration!
11:50 Sports Roundup
12:00 Newsdesk
12:30 Britain Today
12:45 Good Books
13:00 Newsdesk
13:30 Omnibus
14:00 World News
14:05 Outlook
14:45 Sports Roundup
15:00 Newshour
16:00 World News
16:05 Discovery
16:30 On Screen
17:00 World News
17:05 Sports Roundup
17:15 Westway
17:30 Everywoman
18:00 World News
18:15 Insight
18:30 Megamix
19:00 Europe Today
19:30 World Business Report
19:45 Sports Roundup
20:00 World News
20:15 Britain Today
20:30 Omnibus
21:00 World News
21:05 Discovery
21:30 Human Remains
21:45 Off the Shelf: Captain Corelli's Mandolin
22:00 Newshour
23:00 World News
23:05 World Business Report
23:20 Britain Today
23:30 Meridian (Live)
00:00 World News

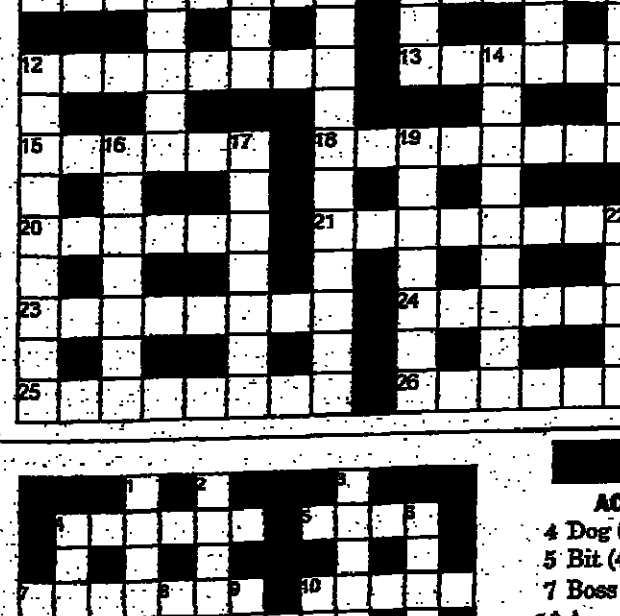
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

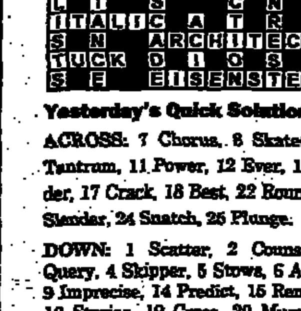
1 One with great experience boards on the right (6)
4 Face up *to* another drink (3,2,3)
8 Extremely pale, having spent about (6)
9 Prevented from making progress mainly? (8)
10 Setting? (8)
11 Certain second person in Paris included a stitch (6)
12 Hundred less locating one fancy engraved design (8)
13 Reg's so upset the big lady (6)
15 Part of body demanded by militant miners? (6)
18 Deterioration as a result of mistake by attendant (8)
20 Gains respect, going into the bog while on active duty (6)
21 Rubbing out the fifth and sixth letters opposite (8)
23 Spicy dish found on top of the stove (8)
24 Island comprising three-quarters of the old country (6)
25 A getting back again after illness (8)
26 Simply like one in the city (6)

DOWN

1 It is really splendid to have a drink with the Queen (5)
2 Abnormal growth on one insect that stings lizard (9)
3 Colourful mound near the M25 (7)
4 Theatre-goers do not need to travel to get it (6,2,7)
5 Artist modelling aspic as well (7)
6 Wrong waterway causes anguish (7)
7 One named in the post (9)
12 Being very agitated whilst having a wash? (2,1,6)
14 Blame Bill with debts who is grasping (9)
16 Ape-like? (7)
17 Not having a score, but at least more than twelve (7)
19 Make effective batting strength? (2,5)
22 Rough blast you initially concluded (5)



SOLUTIONS

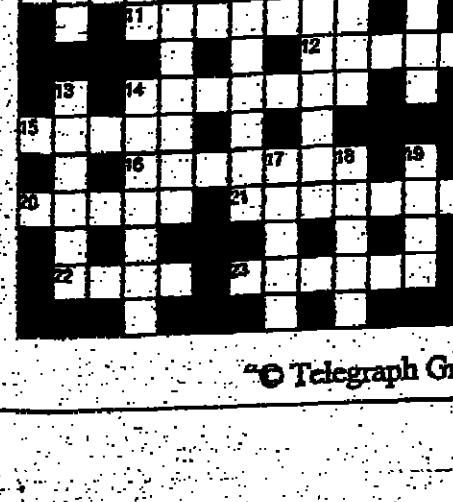


Yesterday's Quick Solution

ACROSS: 7 Chorus, 8 Skated, 10 Tantrum, 11 Power, 12 Ever, 13 Order, 17 Crack, 18 Best, 22 Round, 23 Slender, 24 Snatch, 25 Plunge.

DOWN: 1 Scatter, 2 Counsel, 3 Query, 4 Skipper, 5 Stows, 6 Adorn, 9 Imprecise, 14 Predict, 15 Rending, 16 Stories, 19 Cross, 20 Mural, 21 Realm.

QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS

4 Dog (6)
5 Bit (4)
7 Boss (7)
10 Acer tree (5)
11 Sideways (7)
12 Fashion (5)
14 Emptiness (7)
15 Small shoot (5)
16 Deck with gems (7)
20 ½ (5)
21 Concluded (7)
22 Betting system (4)
23 Crater (anag.) (6)

DOWN

1 Rob (5)
2 Father (5)
3 Horse-soldiers (7)
4 Exchange (4)
6 Natural gift (6)
8 Housed a car (7)
9 Slackened (7)
10 Corresponded (7)
13 Conclusion (6)
14 Shake (7)
17 Tired (5)
18 Meal (5)
19 Scorch (4)

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TV

CHANNEL 1 (11)

ARABIC PROGRAMS
6:30 News flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV
8:00 Jews in History
8:30 Art Workshop
9:00 Cooking with Caprial
9:25 Family Ties
10:00 For the very young
11:00 Reading
11:25 Social Studies
12:55 Literature
13:30 Hanni's Room

CHANNEL 1
15:30 Heartbreak High
16:15 Eli and Lily
16:30 Garden Party
16:59 A New Evening
17:35 Juke Box
18:15 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS
18:30 Apropo
19:00 News in Arabic

HEBREW PROGRAMS
19:30 Elections Special
20:20 With Meni
21:00 News
21:30 Basketball – Hapoel Jerusalem vs. Joventud Badalona, live from Spain
22:10 Weekly Lotto Draw
22:15 Basketball – contd.
23:30 News
00:00 Verse of the Day

CHANNEL 2 (22)
5:45 Today's programs
5:55 Song for the Day
6:00 Animation
6:43 Reshet in the Morning
9:00 Jude Morning
10:00 National Geographic
11:00 LA Fame
12:00 Animal Stories
12:30 Five Children and It
13:00 Open Cards
13:30 Kate and Allie – part 1
14:00 Home and Away
14:30 News for Your Eyes
15:00 Dream On You
15:30 Popeye and Son
16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
16:50 Street Corner
17:00 Five with Gadi Sukenik
17:30 Third in Entertainment
18:00 Popeye
18:05 Viper
19:00 Family and a Half – new season
19:30 Election Diary '99
20:00 News
20:30 Candid Camera
21:25 Focus
22:00 Hot Mishal
23:15 Night Bird
00:00 News
00:05 Night Bird – contd.
00:35 Little Circle
1:30 Shattered Dreams – miniseries about a conscientious detective on the Southside of Chicago
2:20 From the Concert Hall – Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, IPO conducted by James Levine
3:35 Red Dwarf
4:05 Song for the Day

JORDAN TV (31)
Broadcasts passages from the Koran and news until the end of the official 40-day mourning period (March 20) following the death of King Hussein

MIDDLE EAST TV (24/27) (unconfirmed)
7:30 700 Club
8:00 TV Shopping
15:00 Rin Tin Tin
15:30 The Bionic Six
18:00 Woody Woodpecker
16:30 White Fang
17:00 700 Club
17:30 Arabic World News
18:00 Colombo
19:30 Ed Sullivan
20:00 The Manager
21:00 Italian Soccer
23:00 Late Show with David Letterman
23:30 CNN Entertainment
00:00 TV Shopping
2:00 700 Club

CABLE

ITV 3 (33)
16:30 Dictator
17:30 Teletessel
18:00 Tears of Pain
19:00 News in Arabic
19:30 Star News
20:00 Traveling Gourmet
20:30 Showcase
21:00 News
21:30 The Grand
22:30 Elvis in Hawaii – live concert from 1973
23:30 Hollywood Leading Men and Ladies

ETV 2 (23)
15:30 Life Skills
16:00 All People
16:30 My Town – Penang and Prague
17:00 Data Bank
17:41 Nature
18:00 Italian
18:30 Photographic Vision
19:00 Jewish Issues
19:30 Mirror
20:00 New Evening
20:30 Simply Style
20:55 Little Big Country
21:00 Muses: Montparnasse Revisited
22:00 In the Heat of the Night
22:50 Long Search

CHANNEL 3
6:30 Love Story with Yossi Siyas (r)
7:00 The Tonight Show with Jay Leno (r)
7:45 Good Evening with Guy Pines (r)
8:00 Celeste
9:00 Falcon Crest
9:45 The Young and the Restless (r)
10:30 Days of Our Lives (r)
11:15 Forever Little Women
12:00 Barnaby Jones
12:45 Dallas
13:30 Newsradio
14:00 Bewitched
14:25 I Dream of Jeannie
14:50 Ricki Lake
15:35 Judge Judy
16:00 Forever Little Women
16:45 Days of Our Lives
17:30 Friends
18:00 Good Evening with Guy Pines
18:30 Local Broadcast
19:00 The Young and the Restless
19:40 Melrose Place
20:25 Friends
20:50 Beverly Hills 90210
21:35 Dreams of Youth
22:00 Yair Lapid Live at 10
22:30 Seinfeld (r)
23:00 The Tonight Show with Jay Leno
23:45 Good Evening with Guy Pines (r)
00:15 ER
1:05 Ghost Stories
1:50 Red Shoe Diaries

MOVIE CHANNEL (4)
11:30 Hijacking Hollywood (1996) – comedy about a young man who arrives in Hollywood seeking fame and fortune, but is abused and disillusioned to the point of doing something drastic. With Henry Thomas and Scott Thompson
13:05 Diplomaniacs (1933) – musical comedy about two barbers who are sent to represent the American Indians at the Geneva peace conference. With Bert Wheeler and Robert Woolsey
14:05 The Nitwits (1935) – comical musical mystery with a singing duo trying to uncover the identity of a blackmailing killer. With Bert Wheeler, Betty Grable and Robert Woolsey
15:35 Firehouse (1997) – the story of a unit of New York City firefighters. With Richard Dean Anderson and Burt Young
17:10 A Different Kind of Christmas (1996) – a mayoral candidate is forced to come to terms with her eccentric father when the local media discover that he believes himself to be Santa Claus. With Shelley Long, Bruce Boswick and Bruce Kirby
18:50 What Love Sees (1996) – a rich blind girl and a blind young man fall in love and marry despite their difference in backgrounds and manage to run a successful farm together. With Annabeth Gish and Richard Thomas
20:25 Wildflower (1991) – Diane Keaton directed this drama about an abused and partially deaf girl who is helped back into society by two resourceful children. With Beau Bridges, Susan Blakely and William McNamara
22:00 Friends 'Til the End (1997) – a young singer learns that a disturbed girl is trying to take over her life. With Shannen Doherty and Jennifer Blanc
23:35 Crash (1995) – David Cronenberg's controversial movie about a group of people who get sexual kicks from automobile crashes. With James Spader, Holly Hunter and Rosanna Arquette
1:15 The Nurse (1995) – a young nurse whose father killed his family and then committed suicide seeks a position with the head of the brokerage firm for which he worked, in order to get revenge. With Lisa Zane, Janet Gunn and John Stockwell
2:50 The Next Step (1996, 92 mins.) – a successful dancer agonizes over the choice between starting a family and leaving his girlfriend and continuing his Broadway career. With Rich Negron, Kristin Moreu and Denise Faye

CHILDREN (6)
8:30 Cartoons
8:05 Simba, the Jungle King
8:35 Little Mouse on the Prairie
9:05 Treasure Island
9:35 The Smurfs
10:05 Ninja Turtles
10:35 Superman
11:00 Dexter's Lab
11:30 Sam and Max
12:00 Mowgli
12:30 Robinson Sucro
13:00 Nils Holgersen
13:30 Simba, the Jungle King
14:00 Oakey Doky
14:15 Snorks
14:35 Mozart and the Gang
15:05 The Smurfs
15:35 Ninja Turtles
16:05 Superman
16:35 Dexter's Lab
17:00 Calamity Jane
17:30 Bandana Brenda
18:05 Tales of the South Seas
19:00 Moesha
19:30 Family Matters
19:55 Married with Children
20:20 Full House
20:40 The Fresh Prince of Bel Air
21:10 Lois and Clark

SECOND SHOWING (6)
22:00 That Touch of Mink (1962) – romantic comedy about a millionaire playboy and a secretary who grabs him. With Cary Grant, Doris Day and John Astin
23:35 Deception (1946, 107 mins.) – romantic melodrama about a domineering composer and his pianist wife whose relationship is upset by the appearance of her former lover. With Bette Davis, Paul Henreid and Claude Rains

CHANNEL 8
6:00 Open University (rpts from Monday at 23:30)
8:00 Wild Encounters: Grizzly Bear (r)
8:25 Undersea Explorers: Galapagos (r)
8:55 The Heart of Healing
9:45 For Better For Worse
10:45 Taj Mahal (r)
11:15 Love in the Ancient World (r)
12:10 Shola, Indian's Jungle Region (r)
12:40 Beyond 2000 (r)
13:05 Crowded House (r)
13:30 Refugees of the Environment (r)
14:20 Futureworld: What's Up Doc (r)
15:15 Nuclear Sharks: The Scorpion Mystery (r)
16:05 Soviet Echoes: Treasures and Shadows – series on the fate of music and musicians under Soviet rule
17:00 Open University: Cycles of Life; Dynamics of Person-to-Person Communications; Strictly Business; El Niño
19:00 Shablul: Lions and Hyenas – new children's nature magazine hosted by Michal Yanai
19:30 Beyond 2000
20:05 Telenovela – all about Brazil's incredible soap-opera industry
21:00 Futureworld: Planet Zoo – the 21st century
21:55 Nuclear Sharks: Final Mission – the story of the mole John Walker who sold nuclear secrets to the USSR
22:50 Shablul: Lions and Hyenas (r)
23:20 Open University: Story of the Great War; Personal Finance; World of Chemistry
1:20 Shablul: Lions and Hyenas (r)
1:55 Beyond 2000 (r)
2:20 Futureworld (r)

STAR WORLD (18/15)
6:00 Chicago Hope
7:00 Oprah Winfrey Show
8:00 Santa Barbara
9:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
9:30 Molly Katzen's Cooking Show
10:00 Snowy River, The McGregor Saga
11:00 Mysterious Island
11:30 Small Wonder
12:00 The Brittas Empire
12:30 World News
13:00 Asia News & World Business Report
13:30 Home Improvement
14:00 LA Heat
15:00 The Pretender
16:00 NYPD Blue
17:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
17:30 Home Improvement
18:00 LA Heat
19:00 The Pretender
20:00 NYPD Blue
21:00 Home Improvement
21:30 Newhart
22:00 The Brittas Empire
22:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
23:00 The Wonder Years
23:30 Mr. Belvedere
00:00 Aerobics Oz Style
00:30 World News
1:00 Home Improvement
1:30 Candid Camera
2:00 Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures
2:30 The Brittas Empire

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC (17/19)
6:30 Animals and Man (r)
7:00 CNBC
13:00 Legend of the Otter Man (r)
13:30 Moving Giants (r)
14:00 Monarch: A Butterfly Beyond Borders (r)
15:00 Reef Fish: Where Have they Gone – effects of overfishing
16:00 Lost River (r)
16:30 Jaguar, Year of the Cat (r)
17:30 The Mexicans, Through Their Eyes (r)
18:30 Play: The Nature of the Game (r)
19:00 Lost Voyage of the Andrea Doria (r)
19:30 Animals and Man (r)
20:00 Pandas: A Giant Stirs
21:00 Deep into the Labyrinth – Szechuan's unexplored caves
21:30 The Mountain Sculptors – daily life in a rice-cultivating community
22:00 Buddha on the Silk Road – retracing the travels of a Buddhist scholar through Turkestan in the seventh century
23:00 Wrecks of the Condor Reef – search for a wreck off Cambodia thought to hold ancient Chinese porcelain
00:000 Mummies of the Takla Makan
1:00 China Voyage – reconstructing a possible journey from China to the Americas on a bamboo raft
2:00 Pandas: A Giant Stirs

BBC WORLD (13/14)
News on the hour
6:30 USA Direct (r)
7:30 Science World (r)
8:30 The Travel Show (r)
9:30 Hard Talk (r)
10:30 Science World (r)
11:30 Hard Talk (r)
12:30 Radical Highs (r)
13:00 The World Today
14:30 Science World (r)
15:30 The World Today
16:30 Holiday (r)
17:30 Hard Talk
18:30 Correspondent (r)
19:30 The Travel Show (r)
20:00 The World Today
21:30 Hard Talk (r)
22:30 Reporters (r)
23:10 World Business Report
23:30 Talking Movies
00:10 Europe Direct
1:00 World News and Business Report
1:45 Asia Today (r)
2:30 The Travel Show (r)

CNN INTERNATIONAL (12)
News throughout the day
6:15 American Edition
6:30 World Report
7:00 CNN This Morning
7:30 Insight
8:00 CNN This Morning
8:30 Moneyline
9:00 CNN This Morning
9:30 World Sport
10:00 CNN This Morning
10:30 Showbiz Today
11:00 Larry King (r)
12:30 World Sport
13:15 American Edition
13:30 Biz Asia
14:30 Fortune
15:15 Asian Edition
15:30 World Report
16:30 Showbiz Today
17:30 World Sport
18:30 World Beat
19:00 Larry King Live (r)
20:45 American Edition
21:30 World Business Today
22:30 Q&A with Riz Khan
23:00 News Europe
23:30 Insight
00:00 World Business Today
00:30 World Sport
1:00 World View
1:30 Moneyline Newshour
2:30 Showbiz Today

SKY NEWS (14/13)
News on the hour
6:30 The Book Show
7:30 CBS Evening News
8:00 Sunrise
12:30 Sky World News
13:30 Money
16:30 Your Call
18:30 Sky World News
19:00 Live at Five
21:30 Sportsline
22:30 Sky Business Report
23:30 Sky World News
00:00 Prime Time
2:30 CBS Evening News

CHANNEL 5
6:30 Bodies in Motion
16:00 Bodies in Motion
16:30 FILA Basketball
17:00 Spanish League Soccer
18:30 National League Handball
19:30 Sports News
20:00 College Basketball – Stanford vs UCLA
21:15 German League Soccer
22:45 English League Cup – semi-final: Leicester City vs Sunderland

EUROSPORT (15/16)
9:30 Luge (rpt)
10:00 Alpine Skiing
11:00 Biathlon
13:00 Soccer – Eurogoals
14:30 Car On Ice
15:00 Equestrianism
16:00 Sled Dog
16:30 Biathlon
18:00 Live Swimming
20:00 Live Athletics
21:30 Live Boxing
00:00 Soccer
1:00 Golf
2:00 Rally

PRIME TIME TV

	1	2	3	4	6	8
19:30	Elections Special	Elections Diary '99	Melrose Place		Family Matters Married with Children	Beyond 2000
20:00		News				Telenovela
20:30	With Meni	Candid Camera	Friends	Wildflower	Full House Fresh Prince of Bel Air	
21:00	News		Beverly Hills 90210		Lois and Clark	Futureworld Planet Zoo
21:30	Weekly Lotto Draw Docu-Media	Focus	Dreams of Youth			Nuclear Sharks
22:00	The True Story: The Avengers	Hot Mishal	Yair Lapid Live at 10	Friends 'Til the End	That Touch of Mink	
22:30			Seinfeld			Shablul: Lions and Hyenas
23:00	Grace Under Fire		The Tonight Show with Jay Leno			

MOVIES

JERUSALEM
CINEMATHEQUE La Vie Revee des Anges 5 • Another Woman 7:30 • Henry Fool 9:30 • Prick Up Your Ears 9:45 G.G. GIL Jerusalem Mall (Malha) ☎ 6788448 You've Got Mail∞Sliding Doors 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Meet Joe Black 6, 9:30 • The Negotiator∞The Truman Show∞Ronin 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Central Station 4:30, 7:15, 10 • ANTZ 4:30, 7:15 • Psycho 10 JERUSALEM THEATER The Milky Way 7, 9:30 • Central Station 9:30 RAV CHEN 1-7 ☎ 6792799 Credit Card Reservations ☎ 6794477 Rav-Mecher Building, 19 Ha'oman St., Talpiot Little Voice∞There's Something About Mary∞Life Is Beautiful 5, 7:30, 9:45 • I Still Know What You Did Last Summer∞The Siege 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Beloved 6:15, 9:45 • Enemy of the State 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 MEVASSERET ZION G.G. GIL ☎ 5700868 There's Something About Mary 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Psycho 4:45, 7:15, 10 SMADAR ☎ 5618168 Happiness 4:30, 10 • Velvet Goldmine 7:30

TEL AVIV
DIZENGOFF Central Station 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5:30, 7:45, 10 • Sliding Doors 11 a.m., 1, 3:15, 5:15, 7:45, 10 • Washington Square 11 a.m. • Character *(Dutch, Hebrew subtitles)* 1, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10 GAT ☎ 6967888 Beloved 3:15, 6:30, 9:45 GLOBUS ☎6081130/1 Head On 11:30 a.m., 2, 5, 7:30, 10 • You've Got Mail∞Ronin∞The Truman Show 11:30 a.m., 2, 5, 7:30, 10 • Meet Joe Black 11:30 a.m., 2:45, 6, 9:30 • Psycho 7:30, 10 • ANTZ 11:30 a.m., 2, 5, 7:30, 10 • The Negotiator 11:30 a.m., 2, 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Small Soldiers 11:30 a.m., 2, 5 G.G. HOD 1–4 ☎ 5226226 Hod Passage, 101 Dizengoff St. Ronin∞The Truman Show 5, 7:30, 10 • The Big Lebowski 5, 7:30, 10 • The Negotiator 4:30, 7:15, 10 LEV ☎5288288 Velvet Goldmine 12 noon, 2:30, 5, 7:30, 10 • Happiness 12 noon, 4, 7, 9:45 • Girls' Night 12:30, 2:45, 5:15, 7:30 • The Dream Life of Angels 12 noon, 2:30, 5, 7:45, 10 • Hana-Bi 9:45 LEV AVIV ☎6417148 Velvet Goldmine∞Girls Night 7:30, 10 • The Dream Life of Angels∞Nights of Cabiria∞ Hana-Bi 7:30, 10 LIMOR ☎6968084 Shall We Dance 6 • Empire of the Senses 10 • The Big Lebowski 8 G.G. PE'ER ☎ 5442141 You've Got Mail∞The Truman Show 5, 7:30, 10 • ANTZ 5, 7:30 • Meet Joe Black 6, 9:30 • The Negotiator 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Psycho 10 RAV-CHEN ☎ 5282288 Dizengoff Circle I Still Know What You Did Last Summer∞The Siege 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Enemy of the State 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 • Stepmom 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 • Holy Man 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Snake Eyes 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 RAV-OR 1-5 ☎ 5102674 Opera House Little Voice∞There's Something About Mary 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Next Stop Wonderland∞Life Is Beautiful 5, 7:30, 9:45 • The Mighty 5, 7:30, 9:45 TEL AVIV MUSEUM My Son The Fanatic 5, 8, 10

HAIFA
CINEMA CAFÉ AMAMI ☎8325755 Sliding Doors 7:15, 9:30 • Girls' Night 7:15, 9:30 CINEMATHEQUE ☎ 8383424 La Belle Noiseuse 5 • Un Heros Tres Discret 9:30 • Karahana 10:30 MORIAH ☎ 8242477 Happiness 7, 9:30 ORI ☎8500056 You've Got Mail 4:45, 7:15, 10 • The Truman Show∞Ronin 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Meet Joe Black 6, 9:30 • Psycho 4:45, 7:15, 10 • ANTZ 4:45, 7:15, 10 • The Negotiator 4:30, 7:15, 10 PANORAMA ☎ 8382020 You've Got Mail∞Central Station 4:30, 7, 9:30 • Meet Joe Black 6, 9:15 • ANTZ 4:15 RAV-CHEN ☎8500055 I Still Know What You Did Last Summer∞The Siege 4:45, 7:15, 9:30 • There's Something About Mary 4:45, 7:15, 9:30 • Stepmom 4:30, 7, 9:30 • 54 5, 7:15, 9:30 • Rush Hour Fri. 7:30, 10, 12:15 a.m. RAV-GAT 1-2 ☎ 6674311 Rounders 7, 9:30 • Enemy of the State 7, 9:30 RAV-MOR 1-7 ☎8416898 Little Voice 5, 7, 9:30 • Beloved 6, 9:15 • I Still Know What You Did Last Summer∞Life Is Beautiful 4:45, 7, 9:30 • The Siege 4:30, 7, 9:30 • Stepmom 4:30, 7, 9:30 • Enemy of the State 4:30, 7, 9:30 RAV-OR 1-3 ☎ 8246553 Little Voice 5, 7:15, 9:30 • Beloved 6, 9:15 • Life Is Beautiful 4:45, 7, 9:30

AFULA
RAV CHEN I Still Know What You Did Last Summer 7:15, 9:30 • Enemy of the State 7, 9:30 • Life Is Beautiful 7:15, 9:30

ARAD
STAR ☎ 9950904 Ronin∞The Truman Show 5, 7, 10 • ANTZ 5, 7, 10

ASHDOD
G.G. GIL ☎ 8647202 You've Got Mail∞Psycho 5, 7:30, 10 • The Truman Show∞The Big Lebowski 5, 7:30, 10 • Meet Joe Black 6, 9:30 RAV CHEN ☎8661120 I Still Know What You Did Last Summer∞The Siege∞There's Something About Mary 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Holy Man 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Stepmom∞Enemy of the State 4:45, 7:15, 9:45

ASHKELON
G.G. GIL ☎ 6729977 You've Got Mail∞Psycho∞Sliding Doors 5, 7:30, 10 • Meet Joe Black 6, 9:30 • Washington Square∞Sliding Doors 5, 7:30, 10 RAV CHEN ☎6711221 I Still Know What You Did Last Summer∞The Siege 5, 7:30, 9:45 • There's Something About Mary 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Stepmom 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 • Enemy of the State 4:45, 7:15, 9:45

BAT YAM
RAV CHEN ☎ 5531077 I Still Know What You Did Last Summer 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Life Is Beautiful 5, 7:30, 9:45 • The Siege∞You've Got Mail 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Enemy of the State 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 • Meet Joe Black 5:30, 9 • Stepmom 4:45, 7:15, 9:45

BEERSHEBA
G.G. ORI ☎6103111 You've Got Mail 5, 7:30, 10 • Meet Joe Black 6, 9:30 • Washington Square∞The Truman Show 5, 7:30, 10 RAV-NEGEV 1-4 ☎8235278 Little Voice∞I Still Know What You Did Last Summer∞The Siege 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Enemy of the State 4:45, 7:15, 9:45

EILAT
EILAT CINEMA Stepmom 7:30 • I Still Know What You Did Last Summer∞The Siege 7:30, 10 • Enemy of the State 10 GIL ☎6340182 You've Got Mail∞Washington Square 5, 7:30, 10 • Meet Joe Black 6, 9:30

HADERA
LEV ☎6343555 I Still Know What You Did Last Summer 7:30, 10 • Meet Joe Black 6:30, 9:30 • The Siege∞Enemy of the State 7:15, 10

HERZLIYA
COLONY ☎6902666 Enemy of the State 5:15, 7:45, 10:15 • Life Is Beautiful 5:30, 7:30, 10 DANIEL ☎ 9544044 Stepmom 7:30, 10 STAR ☎ 9589068 You've Got Mail 5, 7:30, 10 • Meet Joe Black 6:15, 9:30 • Enemy of the State 7:15, 10 • ANTZ 4:45

HOD HASHARON
GIL ☎ 7408591 You've Got Mail∞I Still Know What You Did Last Summer 5, 7:30, 10 • The Siege 4:45, 7:15 • Meet Joe Black 9:30 • ANTZ 5 • Psycho 7:30, 10

HOLON
GLOBUS You've Got Mail∞I Still Know What You Did Last Summer 5, 7:30, 10 • The Siege 5, 7:30, 10 • Meet Joe Black 6, 9:30 • Stepmom 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Enemy of the State 4:45, 7:15, 10 STAR I Still Know What You Did Last Summer 7:30, 10 • The Siege 7:30, 10 Stepmom 7:15 • The Truman Show 10 • Sliding Doors 7:30, 10

KARMIEL
CINEMA ☎9882521 I Still Know What You Did Last Summer 7:15, 9:30 • The Siege 7, 9:30 • Enemy of the State 7, 9:30

KFAR SAVA
G.G. GIL ☎7677370 Yo've Got Mail 5, 7:30, 10 • Life Is Beautiful 5, 7:30, 10 • Meet Joe Black 6, 9:30 • The Siege 5, 7:30, 10 • Enemy of the State 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Central Station 5, 7:30, 10

KIRYAT BIALIK
G.G. GIL ☎8779877 You've Got Mail∞Stepmom 7, 9:30 • Meet Joe Black 7, 9:30 • ANTZ∞There's Something About Mary 7, 9:30 • The Negotiator∞ Psycho 7, 9:30 • Ronin 7, 9:30

KIRYAT SHMONA
G.G. GIL ☎6905080 I Still Know What You Did Last Summer∞You've Got Mail 4:30, 7, 9:30 • ANTZ 4:30 • Psycho 7, 9:30

NAHARIYA
G.G. GIL I Still Know What You Did Last Summer∞You've Got Mail 5, 7:30, 10 • Siege 5, 7:30, 10 • Meet Joe Black 6, 9:30 • Enemy of the State 4:45, 7:15, 10

UPPER NAZARETH
G.G GIL ☎6561332 I Still Know What You Did Last Summer∞Milky Way 4:30, 7, 9:30 • The Siege∞There's Something About Mary 4:30, 7, 9:30 • Psycho 4:30, 7, 9:30 • Stepmom∞Enemy of the State 4:15, 7, 10 • Meet Joe Black 6, 9:30

NESS ZIONA
G.G. GIL 1-4 ☎ 9404729 You've Got Mail∞There's Something About Mary 5, 7:30, 10 • Meet Joe Black 9:30 • Stepmom 4:45, 7:15, 10 • ANTZ 5, 7:30

NETANYA
G.G. GIL 1-5 ☎ 8628452 Central Station∞You've Got Mail∞The Truman Show 5, 7:30, 10 • Meet Joe Black 6, 9:30 • The Negotiator 10 • ANTZ 5, 7:30 RAV CHEN ☎ 8618570 I Still Know What You Did Last Summer 5, 7:30, 9:45 • The Siege∞Life Is Beautiful 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Enemy of the State 4:45, 7:15, 9:45

OR AKIVA
RAV CHEN ☎ 6262758 The Siege∞ Life Is Beautiful 7, 9:30 • Enemy of the State 7, 9:30

OR YEHUDA
G.G. GIL 1-4 ☎ 5333292 There's Something About Mary∞The Truman Show 7:30, 10 • Sliding Doors 7:30, 10 • The Negotiator 7:15, 10

PETAH TIKVA
G.G. GIL 1-6 ☎ 9087989 Little Voice∞Life Is Beautiful 5, 7:30, 10 • There's Something About Mary∞You've Got Mail 7:30, 10 • Meet Joe Black 6, 9:30 • Stepmom 4:45, 7:15, 10 G.G. HECHAL ☎ 9317374 I Still Know What You Did Last Summer 5, 7:30, 10 • Enemy of the State 4:45, 7:15, 10 • The Siege 5, 7:30, 10

RA'ANANA
PARK ☎ 7711321 Life Is Beautiful∞I Still Know What You Did Last Summer 5, 7:30, 10:15 • Stepmom 5, 7:30 • There's Something About Mary 10:15 • Happiness 7:15, 10 • My Son The Fanatic 5, 7:30, 10:15 RA'ANAN Little Voice 5, 7:30, 10:15 • You've Got Mail∞The Siege∞Enemy of the State 5, 7:30, 10:15 • Beloved 6, 9:15 • The Truman Show 5, 7:30, 10:15

RAMAT GAN
RAV-GAN 1-4 ☎ 6197121 You've Got Mail∞Life Is Beautiful 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Stepmom 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 • Enemy of the State 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 RAV-OASIS 1-3 ☎ 6730687 I Still Know What You Did Last Summer∞Siege 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Meet Joe Black 5:30, 9

RAMAT HASHARON
KOKHAV ☎ 5491979 Character 4:45, 7, 9:30

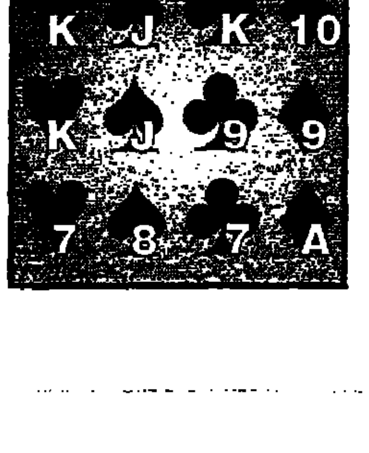
REHOVOT
CHEN ☎ 9362868 Little Voice∞Milky Way 7:30, 9:45 • Velvet Goldmine 7:15, 9:45 • Beloved 6:30 • Character 7:15, 9:45 RAV MOR ☎ 9493595 I Still Know What You Did Last Summer ∞You've Got Mail 5, 7:30, 9:45 • The Siege∞Life Is Beautiful 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Meet Joe Black 5:30, 9 • Enemy of the State 4:45, 7:15, 9:45

RISHON LEZION
GIL 1-3 ☎ 9500785 You've Got Mail∞Psycho 5, 7:30, 10 • Meet Joe Black 9:30 • ANTZ 5, 7:30 HAZAHAV ☎ 9514968 You've Got Mail∞Life Is Beautiful 5, 7:30, 10 • Meet Joe Black 6, 9:30 • Enemy of the State 4:45, 7:15, 10 • ANTZ 5, 7:30 • Ronin 10 RAV CHEN ☎ 9670504 I Still Know What You Did Last Summer∞The Siege∞Life Is Beautiful 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Enemy of the State 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 STAR ☎ 9619985 I Still Know What You Did Last Summer 7:30, 10 • The Siege 7:30, 10 • Stepmom 7:15 • The Truman Show 10 • Sliding Doors 7:30, 10

SHOHAM
STAR ☎ 9793834 There's Something About Mary∞Sliding Doors 7:15, 9:45 • Enemy of the State 7, 9:45

YEHUD
RAV CHEN ☎5367910 I Still Know What You Did Last Summer 5, 7:30, 9:45 • The Siege 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Life Is Beautiful 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Enemy of the State 4:45, 7:15, 9:4

All times are p.m. unless otherwise indicated. Telephone reservations (credit card) can be made for Golan Globus (G.G.) cinemas at 1-700-50-50-50



Whacked out



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The Great One



Page 18

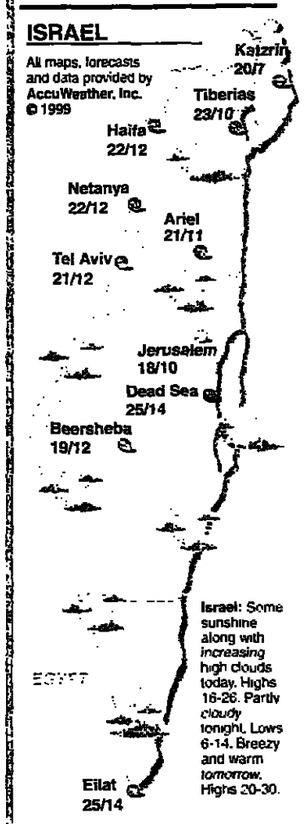
Sports Editors: Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

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ISRAEL



ISRAEL CITIES

City	Today High C/F	Today Low/W C/F	Wednesday High C/F	Wednesday Low/W C/F
Ariel	21/70	11/52/pc	25/77	8/46/pc
Beersheba	19/66	12/53/pc	24/75	8/46/pc
Dead Sea	25/77	14/57/pc	28/82	12/53/pc
Eilat	25/77	14/57/pc	29/84	14/57/pc
Haifa	22/71	12/53/pc	25/77	12/53/pc
Jerusalem	18/64	10/50/pc	21/70	7/44/pc
Katzrin	20/68	7/44/pc	20/68	5/41/c
Netanya	22/71	12/53/pc	25/77	12/53/pc
Tel Aviv	21/70	12/53/pc	24/75	12/53/pc
Tiberias	23/73	10/50/pc	26/79	8/46/pc

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

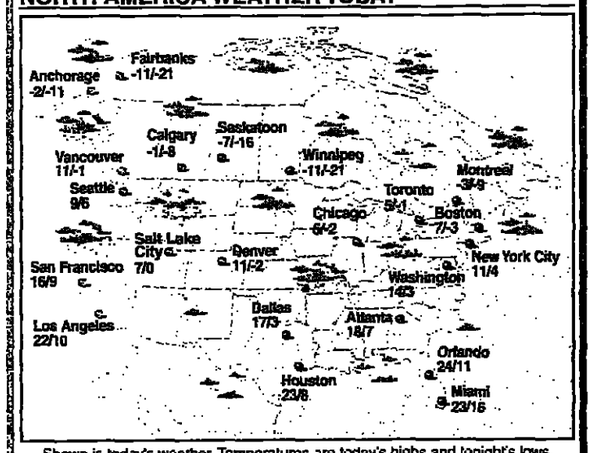
City	Today High C/F	Today Low/W C/F	Wednesday High C/F	Wednesday Low/W C/F
Amsterdam	6/43	-2/29/sh	2/35	1/34/sn
Beijing	19/66	5/41/s	9/48	-5/24/pc
Berlin	3/37	-2/29/sn	-4/25	-9/16/s
Brussels	6/43	0/32/c	3/37	2/35/sn
Cairo	23/73	14/57/pc	25/77	12/53/pc
Chicago	6/43	-2/29/r	1/34	-3/27/sf
Frankfurt	1/34	-4/25/sn	-3/27	-11/13/sn
Hong Kong	21/70	16/61/s	21/70	16/61/s
Johannesburg	28/82	18/64/pc	29/84	18/64/pc
London	7/44	2/35/pc	8/46	5/41/s
Los Angeles	22/71	10/50/pc	23/73	9/48/pc
Madrid	9/48	1/34/pc	12/53	3/37/pc
Mexico City	24/75	7/44/s	20/68	6/43/pc
Montreal	-3/27	-9/16/sf	0/32	-8/18/sf
Moscow	-1/31	-6/22/c	-2/29	-6/22/c
New York	11/52	4/39/pc	8/46	2/35/r
Paris	6/43	0/32/sh	6/43	2/35/s
Prague	1/34	-3/27/sn	-2/29	-10/14/sn
Rio de Janeiro	32/89	25/77/pc	30/86	24/75/pc
Rome	9/48	2/35/s	14/57	5/41/pc
Sydney	33/91	25/77/pc	34/93	25/77/pc
Tokyo	12/53	7/44/s	14/57	12/53/s
Toronto	5/41	-1/31/sn	6/43	-3/27/sn
Vienna	1/34	-2/29/c	-1/31	-6/22/s
Warsaw	0/32	-3/27/sn	-6/22	-12/11/pc
Washington	14/57	3/37/pc	9/48	2/35/r
Zurich	3/37	-1/31/sn	-1/31	-3/27/sn

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

MOON PHASES

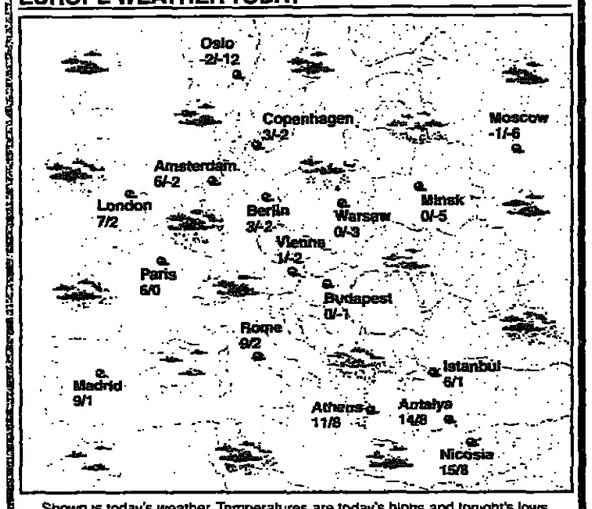
New	First	Full	Last
Feb 16	Feb 23	Mar 2	Mar 10

NORTH AMERICA WEATHER TODAY



Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

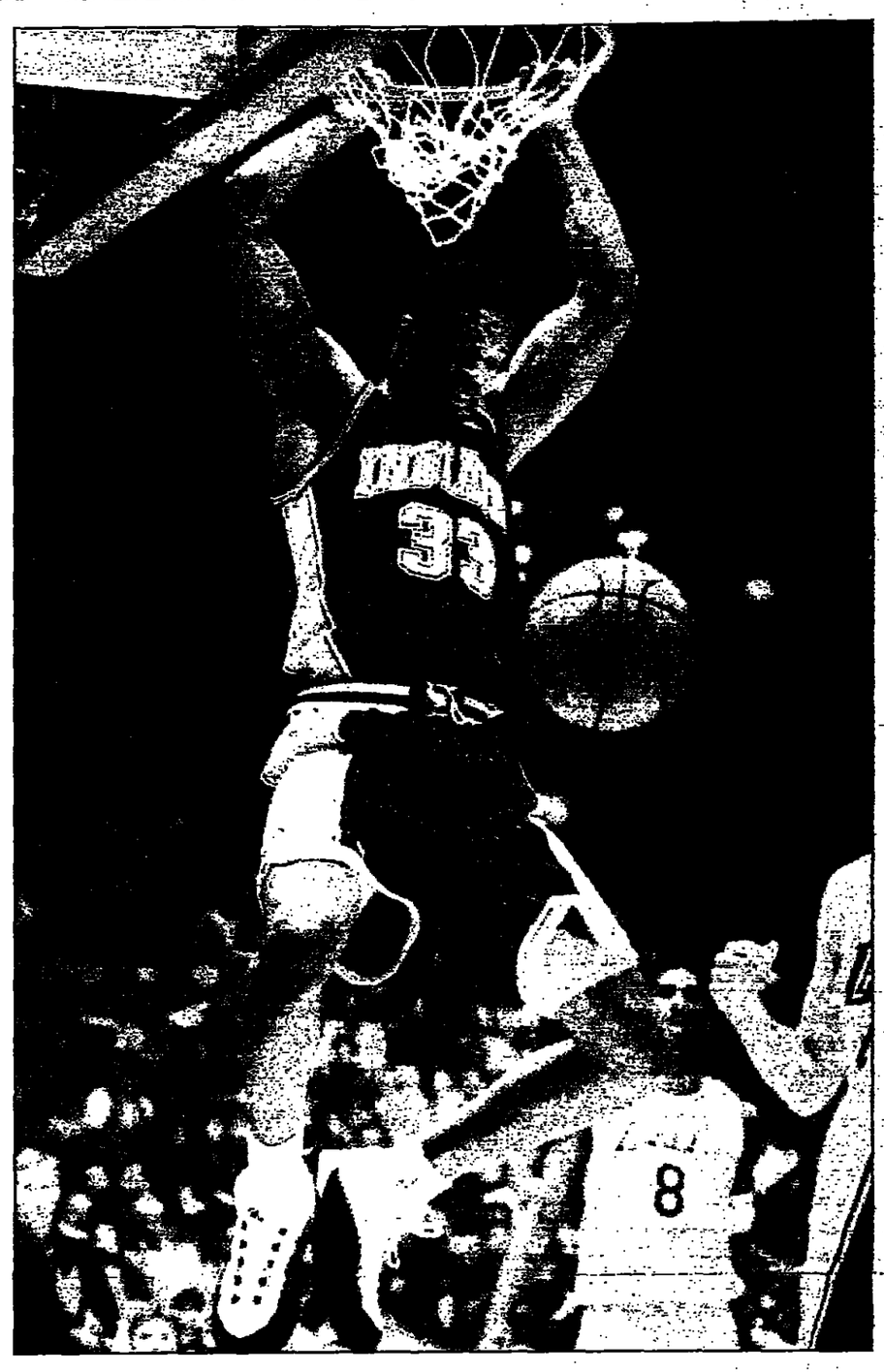
EUROPE WEATHER TODAY



Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

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EL AL Weekends

Knicks shut down Pistons



TAKING TWO – *Pacers Antonio Davis slam dunks against the Lakers in second-quarter action.* Indiana won 101-99. (Reuters)

NEW YORK (AP) – The New York Knicks let *Grant Hill* get his points, but didn't allow any of the other Detroit Pistons to hurt them.

Hill scored 31 points last night in his only trip of the season to Madison Square Garden, but no one else reached double figures for Detroit as the Pistons dropped a 78-69 decision to the Knicks.

Allan Houston scored 19 points. Patrick Ewing had 14, Larry Johnson 12 and Charlie Ward 10 for the Knicks, who threw some interesting defensive looks at Hill as they won their third straight.

The Knicks double-teamed Hill near midcourt whenever they could, forcing him to give up the ball early on several possessions. Yet Jerry Stackhouse (1-for-11), Bison Dele (4-for-12), Lindsay Hunter (1-for-6), Jerome Williams (0-for-5) and Joe Dumars (0-for-4) failed to capitalize as Detroit went 0-for-7 from 3-point range and shot only 36 percent overall.

The Knicks had their own problems offensively, going more than 12 minutes between baskets in an ugly stretch bridging the third and fourth quarters.

Box scores, Page 18

Childs finished with 7 points, five rebounds, four assists and four steals, while Marcus Camby had 6 points, five rebounds and three blocks for the Knicks, who improved to 3-0 without Latrell Sprewell after starting 0-2 with him.

SUNDAY'S GAMES

Magic 85, Bucks 82

Orlando held Milwaukee to four points over the final 6:25 Sunday to knock the Bucks from the ranks of the unbeaten with an 85-82 victory in a matchup of surprising division leaders.

Penny Hardaway scored 18 points and rookie Matt Harpring added 15 for the Magic, who lead the Atlantic Division and the Eastern Conference with a 5-1 record – Orlando's best start since winning seven of eight to begin the 1995-96 season.

Pacers 101, Lakers 99

Reggie Miller scored 26 points and reserves Jalen Rose and Antonio Davis had strong fourth quarters to lead visiting Indiana, which outscored the Lakers 25-13 in the final 8:55 to overcome a 36-point, 17-rebound performance by Shaquille O'Neal.

Miller appeared to clinch the victory by making two free throws with 8.6 seconds left to make it 100-96, but Kobe Bryant's 3-point shot – he was closer to midcourt than he was to the 3-point line – with 4.8 seconds left cut Indiana's lead to one point.

After Rik Smits made one of two foul shots with four seconds remaining, Bryant's last gasp 3-pointer rimmed out.

76ers 78, Hawks 70

Allen Iverson scored 32 points, including 15 in the first quarter, and Philadelphia survived a cold-shooting fourth quarter to win at home.

Iverson, coming off a 46-point performance Friday night, hit a key basket with 1:09 remaining after Atlanta pulled within four points.

Spurs 89, Bulls 76

Steve Kerr got his championship ring and then found his 3-point touch in his return to the United Center to help San Antonio beat Chicago.

The loss gave Chicago its first three-game losing streak at home in five years – the year Michael Jordan took off to play professional baseball.

The Spurs held a one-point lead in the fourth quarter when Kerr, who received his ring in a pre-game ceremony, hit consecutive 3-pointers – the second right in front of the Bulls' bench – to give San Antonio a 68-61 lead.

After Chicago got back within two points, David Robinson tipped in a shot, sank a jumper and then hit five free throws during a 16-4 run that locked up the victory.

Toni Kukoc led the Bulls with 27 points and 11 rebounds.

Timberwolves 95, Clippers 73

Kevin Garnett had 24 points and 11 rebounds as Minnesota extended its winning streak against host Los Angeles to eight games.

Warriors 105, T. Blazers 100 (2OT)

Chris Mills hit a game-tying 3-pointer in the final moments of overtime and a go-ahead jumper in the second OT as host Golden State won for the first time this season.

Terry Cummings led the Warriors with 24 points, including six points in the second overtime when Golden State outscored Portland 11-6.

Arvydas Sabonis led Portland with 23 points.

Grizzlies 96, Mavericks 92

Sam Mack hit eight 3-point shots and scored 26 points as Vancouver won at home.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	5	1	.833	–
Philadelphia	4	1	.800	½
New York	3	2	.600	1½
Boston	2	2	.500	2
Miami	2	3	.400	2½
New Jersey	1	3	.250	3
Washington	1	3	.250	3
Central Division				
Milwaukee	3	1	.750	–
Atlanta	4	2	.667	–
Indiana	4	2	.667	–
Detroit	3	3	.500	1
Cleveland	2	3	.400	1½
Toronto	1	3	.250	2
Charlotte	1	4	.200	2½
Chicago	1	4	.200	2½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	5	0	1.000	–
Houston	4	1	.800	1
Minnesota	4	1	.800	1
San Antonio	4	3	.571	2
Vancouver	2	3	.400	3
Dallas	1	5	.167	4½
Denver	1	5	.167	4½
Pacific Division				
Seattle	5	0	1.000	–
Phoenix	3	2	.600	2
L.A. Lakers	3	3	.500	2½
Portland	2	2	.500	2½
Sacramento	2	2	.500	2½
Golden State	1	5	.167	4½
L.A. Clippers	0	5	.000	5

Keegan, FA start talks

LONDON (Reuters) – Kevin Keegan began talks with English soccer bosses yesterday about becoming national team coach.

Football Association (FA) spokesman Steve Double said Keegan and two top FA officials met for more than two hours near Keegan's home in northeast England and further meetings would take place.

"Earlier on today, Kevin met with Noel White, chairman of the FA's International committee and (acting chief executive) David Davies travelled up to the northeast to meet with Kevin Keegan where they had an amicable meeting lasting more than two hours," said Double.

Double refused to give any details but said the talks would continue. "We are still optimistic about having some positive announcement to make later this week," he said.

Former Liverpool and England striker Keegan, currently manager of second division Fulham, is the leading candidate for the job after Glenn Hoddle was sacked on February 2.

Keegan had previously pledged his loyalty to the London club, saying he planned to see out the remaining 18 months of his contract. But on Sunday the former Newcastle United manager said he would talk to the FA if they approached him.

Former Everton and Leeds United manager Howard Wilkinson was given temporary control of the team for last week's 2-0 defeat by world champions France.

Daniel-Benoit fight makes headlines

By ELI GRONER

Yesterday's aftermath of the big brawl at Yad Eliahu on Sunday night was no prettier than the sight itself: Maccabi Tel Aviv's David Benoit and Rishon Lezion's Motti Daniel attacked each other in the ugliest fight the National Basketball League has witnessed in recent years.

Neither party showed signs of contrition as the tension grew, and Daniel yesterday threatening to go to the police.

The two came to blows after being matched up against each other for the latter part of a very physical league contest on Sunday night. Television footage clearly showed Benoit throwing the first punch, but it is unclear what provoked his actions.

In an interview on Channel 2, Daniel claimed that it was the standard trash talk that goes on between players. Rumors surfaced, however, that Daniel had "crossed the line of what is acceptable," resorting to ugly, racial slander (Benoit is black).

Benoit later grudgingly admitted to Channel 1's *Mabat* that called his a "nigger." "If he were to say these things in the NBA he would probably be kicked out of basketball for good," Benoit told the interviewer.

Each player received an automatic, one-game suspension and the Israel Basketball Association, which is examining the evidence may take further action.

The suspension is particularly damaging to Maccabi Tel Aviv, whose next game is against the league leaders Hapoel Jerusalem, on March 7.

LA set to ink deal with Rodman

INGLEWOOD (AP) – The Los Angeles Lakers expect to have Dennis Rodman signed to a contract before tonight's game against the Charlotte Hornets, according to a source close to the team.

The Lakers, who have started the season a disappointing 3-3, first expressed an interest in Rodman two weeks ago when he met with owner Jerry Buss for dinner.

The Lakers can only offer Rodman the veterans' minimum of $1 million – prorated to *$600,000 for this lockout-shortened season* – but he'll also earn $3m from his endorsement *contract with Converse.*

The Lakers' frontline suffered a blow Sunday when forward Robert Horry was hospitalized with chest pains shortly before the start of the game against the Indiana Pacers.

Horry was diagnosed as having an irregular heartbeat. It was not immediately known how long he would be sidelined.

Rodman, who turns 38 in May, has played on five of the last 10 NBA champions, including the last three with the Chicago Bulls. For the past seven seasons, he has been the league's leading rebounder.

His career scoring average is just 7.5 points, but he is one of the greatest rebounders in league history with a 13.2 average. No other player ever won seven straight rebounding titles.

After Michael Jordan's retirement last month, the Bulls opted not to pursue Rodman. He flirted with the idea of signing with Orlando or Miami, but both teams backed off.

Lakers center Shaquille O'Neal has said repeatedly he supports the acquisition of Rodman.

With Rodman's history, it's impossible to assume anything is certain. As for his erratic behavior, Lakers coach Del Harris said if Rodman becomes a member of the team, he won't prejudge him.

"You really don't know a player until you've coached him in this league," Harris said Saturday. "I think you're better off not listening to the rumors and everything and just finding out ways to work with the people that you do have.

"There are always ways to work with people. You just have to find the different communicating methods that are required, or in some cases non-communicating methods that are required and go from there."

When asked if Rodman would be the missing link for the Lakers, Harris said: "We certainly have done well so far without him."

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